

Mohdshemi challenges U.S. kidnap ruling

ABU DHABI (R) — A former Iranian minister and radical leader accused by Washington of fomenting terrorism has challenged a U.S. court ruling allowing it to abduct foreigners for trial in the United States. Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, accused by Washington of setting up Lebanon's Hizbollah (Party of God), was quoted by the weekly Magazine Al Shuraq as saying the U.S. could not produce the evidence to make him the target of forcible abduction. "I challenge the American administration and its legal system to produce evidence I am involved in any operations abroad," said Mr. Mohtashemi, who was interior minister until removed by Iran's pragmatic new President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani three years ago. Mr. Mohtashemi is believed to be among 500 people listed as "terrorists" by the U.S. who could be targets under a supreme court ruling that treaties may be ignored in arrange abductions of criminal suspects abroad wanted for trial in U.S. courts. Al Shuraq, an Arabic-language magazine published in the United Arab Emirates, quoted Mr. Mohtashemi as saying Washington had advised Iranian leaders of measures it plans to take against Iranians wanted by U.S. courts. But he said such action would threaten any future normalisation of ties.

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية - الراي

Syria will 'fight for Arab rights'

CAIRO (R) — Syria is committed to using bilateral talks with Israel to fight for all outstanding Arab issues, Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said on Sunday. "The bilateral peace talks are a battle we enter to recover our occupied lands, establish a real peace and assure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," Mr. Sharaa told reporters at an Arab League meeting on Lebanon. "We are bound in this operation and will continue our efforts to accomplish this goal... Israel will bear the responsibility for any failure to achieve this," Israeli Prime Minister-delegate Yitzhak Rabin has said he will give priority to the Palestinian issue in peace talks. Mr. Sharaa defended the presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon, saying it was a matter between Beirut and Damascus. "Without Syrian help, honest Syrian help, Lebanon could not have ended the civil war or united the state and army," Mr. Sharaa said, attacking Israel's occupation of the south of the country. He said Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation would meet in Damascus before the end of July to coordinate positions on the peace process. Golan not for leasing, page 2

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King concedes Salem, Azaideh and Hadid families

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday visited the homes of Khalil Al Salem, member of the Upper House of Parliament who passed away last month, and offered condolences to his family. The King also visited the homes of Ahmad Qasbi Al Azaideh and Nayef Al Hadid, members of the Lower House, who also passed away last month. The King offered condolences to their families. He was accompanied on the visits by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki.

Fire disrupts power supply

AMMAN (J.T.) — A fire Sunday engulfed one of the power main generators feeding Greater Amman area, causing heavy damage to the generator and a shut off of power in the area served by the generator. The generator, part of the 'Ain Ghazal power plant, has been working without any interruption except during routine maintenance since 1977. The fire caused the leakage of 25 tonnes of oil, used to insulate and cool the generator, thus causing the fire to spread to a wider area. Civil Defence teams rushed to the scene and put off the fire in a record time, according to Colonel Mohammad Al Hmoud, director of the Amman Civil Defence Department. The fire was attributed to a technical fault, which power plant officials said they were not aware of earlier.

Yemeni minister injured in accident

AMMAN (AP) — Yemeni Housing Minister Mohammad Ahmad Salaman has survived a car accident with only minor injuries, officials reported Sunday. A security official said the collision occurred Saturday night in the western Dead Sea region. He said a taxi skidded, collided with the minister's 1991 BMW automobile and hit a nearby electric pole. The taxi driver, Ali Mohammad Al Harassi, 38, died instantly. The minister, who was accompanied by his wife and four children, was taken to a nearby hospital where he and his family received first aid and were released. "Mr. Salaman was only bruised, he is in good condition, enjoying his vacation in Jordan," said Ali Soudahi, a press consul at the Yemeni embassy.

Ramadan to attend Sudan celebration

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan was to attend celebrations in Sudan marking the third anniversary of the coup that brought Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir to power, the Iraqi News Agency said Sunday. "This participation and at this level was ordered by President Saddam Hussein as an expression for Iraq's great appreciation for Sudan's attitudes," Mr. Ramadan said Sunday "stood in the face of all intimidations and attractions exerted by America, its allies and its slaves from the traitorous Arab rulers."

Resistance says Israeli position hit

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese fighters said they attacked an Israeli intelligence position in Israel's South Lebanon "security zone" on Sunday with rockets and machineguns. But an Israeli army spokeswoman denied a raid took place. The Lebanese Resistance, an alliance of leftist parties, said its fighters scored a direct hit on Saf Al Hawa post in the Bint Jubail area inside the 15-kilometre deep zone.

Phosphate mines discovered in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Three phosphate mines have been discovered in southern Iran with estimated reserves totalling 540 million tonnes, Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Sunday. One of the mines is the largest discovered to date with estimated reserves of 400 million tonnes, said the agency. All three mines are located in the southern Kohkilyeh-Bayner Ahmad province, 700 kilometres southwest of Tehran, it said.

House passes law on political parties

By Mariam M. Shaban

Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday endorsed a draft law on political parties, ending 36-year absence of political parties in the Kingdom.

An unexpected consensus emerged among the deputies during Sunday's session, making it possible for the House to confirm predictions that the debate on the long-awaited law could take the entire two-month duration of the extraordinary Parliament session which opened in the third week of May.

Almost the entire political spectrum represented in the House agreed that unions, clubs, institutions and charitable societies should not engage in political activities. This particular element in the draft law as presented by the government was earlier expected to draw controversy and prolonged debate in the House.

Although a total of 61 deputies attended Sunday's session at its various points, only 52 of them were present during the voting on the law, which was endorsed by 44 of them.

One of the main tenets of the

law, as approved by the House, stipulates that Jordanian political parties should be independent and should have no organisational or financial links with any external elements.

While the law gives the Ministry of Interior administrative powers vis-a-vis the legalisation of political parties, it also states that the ministry is accountable to the judiciary in all its decisions concerning parties. The judiciary is given the power to overrule the ministry.

Political parties must maintain a minimum of 50 members and should have a five-member leadership.

Article 16 of the law sets 18 as the minimum age for party members. The original draft had set the age 19 and the amendment incorporated by the House was seen as a victory for the Muslim Brotherhood movement and the House's Law Committee which saw most of their amendments overruled.

Violations of the political parties law will be punishable by fines and prison sentences. These provisions drew protest from 28 deputies who attended Sunday's session. "Such punishments are remnants of martial law," said

Salcem Zoubi, a pan-Arab deputy who lobbied in vain against the passage of Article 25, which stipulates the punishments.

By far the harshest punishment stipulated in Article 25 is for political parties that receive funds from outside the Kingdom. A maximum of JD2000 or two years in jail is the prescribed punishment for the offence of the party.

The law also forbids the foundation of parties based on sectarianism and discrimination. The law asks that the statute of all parties should include a pledge to uphold and protect the constitution.

The parties will have the freedom to express their views to newspapers and have the right to have party newspapers and periodicals.

Article 18 of the law gives political parties protection from huggo, arbitrary searches of headquarters and other forms of harassment without the proof of criminal or illegal action being presented to one of the party's founders and the prosecutor general.

(Continued on page 5)

Algerian minister rules out dialogue with Islamists

CAIRO (Agencies) — Algeria's Interior Minister Larbi Belkheir has vowed there would be no dialogue between the government and the outlawed fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

"There is no room for dialogue with the FIS or anyone who calls for violence," Mr. Belkheir said in an interview with the London-based Al Hayat newspaper on Sunday.

"In any case, the FIS is a party which has finished, we have dissolved it..."

Mr. Belkheir, one of Algeria's most powerful men, said the government planned to appoint Muslim preachers in each of the country's 9,300 mosques.

"Our principal problem is in the mosques... we've fought this problem for some months and the mosques are no longer like they were but there are still some things disseminated from time to time."

Algeria's collective presidency

said on Saturday none of its members had ambitions for supreme power and indicated it would end its leadership in December 1993.

In a statement, the five-man high council of state, now headed by Ali Kafi following the assassination of head of state Mohamed Bouedjel, confirmed its task was "to ensure the continuity of the state during the transitory period."

Under the January 1992 decree which created the collective presidency after President Chadli Benjedid resigned, the "transitory period" runs until December next year.

Mr. Benjedid quit amid the turmoil caused by the FIS which took a commanding lead in elections held in December 1991 after the introduction of multiparty democracy.

The programme of the FIS, opposed democracy and vowed to "make Algeria an Islamic state. The election was cancelled."

The high council's statement — carried by radio, television and by the official news agency APS — said its members' only ambi-

tion was to help bring the country out of crisis and restore state authority.

"In this regard, one of them (members) thinks of being candidate for the supreme magistracy (the post of president)," the statement said.

The government said Saturday Mr. Bouedjel's assassin was a 26-year-old second lieutenant who was a member of the presidential guard.

Mr. Bouedjel was the man who gunned down Mr. Bouedjel as the president was making a speech in the eastern city of Annaba, evening television quoted the Annaba prosecutor's office as saying.

A picture of Bouedjel, who has light hair and green eyes, was shown on television.

He was arrested Monday, but not at the scene of the shooting, the announcement said.

"Solid evidence establishing his guilt" has been gathered, the broadcast said, but did not give any other details "so as not to sidetrack the case."

(Continued on page 5)

Libyan paper asks Fahd to let Saddam perform Haj

NICOSIA (R) — A Libyan newspaper, questioning Saudi King Fahd's authority as custodian of Muslim holy shrines, challenged the monarch on Sunday to allow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein perform the pilgrimage to Mecca. Al Jamahiriya quoted unnamed reliable sources as saying the Iraqi president was seriously thinking of performing the minor pilgrimage to Mecca and a decision would be taken soon at the highest political level.

President Saddam has performed the minor pilgrimage in the past but is not known to have left Iraq since he was evicted from Kuwait by a U.S.-led multinational force invited by Saudi Arabia.

There is no set time for the minor pilgrimage (Umra) and President Saddam could decide to go at anytime if he can.

This would "explode a crisis which only God knows its outcome," Al Jamahiriya said in an editorial published by the Libyan news agency JANA.

"Therefore we want to differentiate between religion and politics, between Fahd as a King and Fahd as custodian of the two holy shrines."

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. team in Iraq standoff

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq denied U.N. inspectors access to a government ministry building on Sunday and the U.N. team leader said Baghdad was violating U.N. ceasefire resolutions.

"We have been here for 10 hours," team leader Karen Jensen told reporters during the standoff outside Iraq's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Major Jensen, a U.S. chemical expert, said the Iraqis were obliged under the U.N. resolutions to give her and her team "unimpeded access to all sites designated by the special commission."

"For some reason they do not want us to enter this particular facility," Maj. Jensen said. Iraq said it denied the team access because it believed the building contained nothing related to the Gulf war ceasefire resolutions requiring Iraq to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.

Abdul Sattar Salman, Iraq's agriculture and irrigation undersecretary, allowed reporters into the building and told them: "We are a civil ministry and have got nothing to do with Resolution 687."

"It is an aggressive measure by the United Nations inspectors," Mr. Salman said. "We have been locked here since the early morn-

ing. They do not allow us leave the building."

Maj. Jensen's 16-member team has been in Iraq overseeing dismantling of equipment Iraq used to fabricate chemical weapons.

She told reporters Saturday she decided to extend her visit to inspect more undeclared Iraqi sites.

Maj. Jensen and members of her team watched the building from six air-conditioned cars parked around it, making sure nothing of importance was taken out without their permission.

She was in touch with New York through a satellite telephone installed on the side of a main street in the heart of Iraqi capital.

"Had we been granted instant access, it would have been one of those things the team could have gone through," Maj. Jensen said. "The fact that we were delayed makes you wonder why there was a delay," she added.

She said she informed the executive chairman of U.N.'s special commission of Iraq's refusal to allow her to inspect the building and he had in turn informed the president of the Security Council and its five permanent members.

Maj. Jensen said the Iraqi refusal was "a serious breach of ceasefire resolutions."

Jordan hopes for Israeli commitment to 242 and 338, international legitimacy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan hopes that the new Israeli government would be ready to discuss the implementation of related U.N. Security Council resolutions, accept the principle of land-in-exchange for peace and grant the Palestinian people the right to self-determination and to set up their own state on their soil, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber has been quoted as saying.

Dr. Abu Jaber, in comments carried by Oman's Al Watan magazine, reiterated Jordan's position and commitment to U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of international legitimacy. Jordan stands ready to discuss questions related to the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 if the Israeli government is committed to these principles and international legitimacy, Dr. Abu Jaber said in the comments, excerpts from which were carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

But if Israel shows intransigence it will be very difficult to reach an agreement on peace, he said. Reiterating Jordan's position and commitment to the peace process, Dr. Abu Jaber said:

"The peace process has so far enabled us to present a different image of the Arab and show the world that we are right in demanding to live in peace and security."

The peace process, which partly caused the downfall of Likud leader and prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, could last very long but one has to remain alert and closely follow events, he added.

In reply to a question on Jordan's relations with other Arab countries, Dr. Abu Jaber said that the time has come for the Arabs to transcend their differences and open a new chapter in their relations simply because the Arabs have one interest and one common objective.

Jordan, he added, is extending a hand of friendship to all Arab countries.

Dr. Abu Jaber urged Arab states to reconsider their stand vis-a-vis Jordan over the Gulf crisis and urged the Omani people and government to try to end the differences among Arab states "because the Omanis realise too well the Jordanian position and understand Jordan's

process, Dr. Abu Jaber said: "The peace process has so far enabled us to present a different image of the Arab and show the world that we are right in demanding to live in peace and security."

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Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber

nationalist stand."

Jordanian-Omani relations, Dr. Abu Jaber said, are characterised by amity and brotherly feeling founded by His Majesty King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos of Oman.

Dr. Abu Jaber said Jordan was committed to the Constitution and its provisions, which provide for pluralism. He stressed that Jordan will remain open for all Arabs and will continue to pursue a moderate and flexible policy.

He expressed hope that Jordan's experiment in democracy would set an example for other Arab countries.

Planning ministers of 13 Arab states, including Gulf countries at odds with Jordan over the Gulf war, have been invited to a U.N.-organised meeting in Amman in August to discuss economic cooperation.

The meeting, the 16th biannual session of the Amman-based United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), will look into ways of boosting social and economic links among member states and with other countries.

ESCWA groups the oil-rich, six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — and Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen.

Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation are also members.

A spokesman for ESCWA said invitations were sent out with the programme of the Aug. 30 to Sept. 3 meeting.

The last meeting, scheduled to have been held in Baghdad in 1991, was cancelled because of a U.N. embargo on Iraq.

League urges U.N. powers to support Lebanon

CAIRO (Agencies) — Arab League foreign ministers Sunday urged the United Nations Security Council to seek an end to Israeli attacks on Lebanon and a withdrawal of its forces from the country.

The call came within resolutions issued by an emergency session of the Arab League that opened Saturday to consider Lebanon's request for a unified Arab stand against Israeli attacks on its southern territories.

The league urged the U.N. Security Council to "bear the responsibility of ensuring Israel abides by Resolution 425..." and of taking immediate and firm measures according to the U.N. Charter, including Chapter Seven, to enforce Israel to cease its repeated attacks on Lebanon.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 calls for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon. Chapter Seven of the U.N. Charter permits the use of force for the implementation of resolutions.

At least 37 people have been killed and 82 wounded in 22 Israeli raids on Lebanon this year.

Tension has run high in the area since May and frequent clashes have pitted Israel and its surrogate militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), against Hizbollah, the Party of God.

The 1,100-square-kilometre strip has been under Israeli control since 1985 and is patrolled by about 1,000 Israeli soldiers and 3,000 SLA militiamen.

Israel has refused to withdraw from the zone.

The league resolutions also called on Arab League member states to pay their dues to a fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon.

The league pledged in 1988 \$1.8 billion for reconstruction of the country that fought a 15-year-old civil war.

A three-member committee formed of Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Algeria have been asked to follow the implementation of the resolutions.

The meeting of the 21-member Arab League council, convened at Lebanon's request, included foreign ministers from Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Other members were represented by junior officials or permanent representatives to the Arab League.

Lebanon's Foreign Minister Faris Bouez told the opening session Saturday that the situation in South Lebanon is "explosive."

Rabin offers vote on land for peace

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin has proposed voters have the last word on any peace treaties requiring Israel to give up territory, his spokesman said on Sunday.

"Our goal is to move the peace process forward towards signing a peace agreement," spokesman Gad Ben-Ari said.

"But the condition is that before the signing, it will be brought to the judgement of the voter if it is going to involve territorial compromise," he added.

Political sources said Mr. Rabin's suggested vote might take the form of new elections or a nationwide referendum.

Mr. Rabin, whose Labour Party trounced Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party in a June 23 election, is eager to draw smaller parties into a government coalition that his aides expect will be formed by next week.

His offer could satisfy the rightist Tsomet Party led by former army chief Rafael Eitan which opposes ceding occupied territory in a peace agreement as envisaged by the United States and United Nations resolutions.

Mr. Rabin is trying to juggle demands of potential allies Tsomet and Meretz, a leftist alignment which ultimately favours the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Elected to a four-year term, Mr. Rabin has pledged to speed up Middle East peace talks begun last October. He wants to give the Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip a five-year period of limited self-rule within a year.

Under the 1978 Camp David accords signed with Egypt, Israel would only begin negotiating a permanent solution three years into the period of self-rule. A final settlement would be enacted within two years.

Mr. Rabin has said he would be willing to consider proposals for Syria to lease the Golan Heights to the Jewish state but Damascus rejects the idea (see page 2)

Gazan boy dies of 18-month-old gunshot

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — A 16-year-old Palestinian has died a year and a half after being shot by Israeli soldiers, residents said on Sunday.

They said Abdul Muhesad Sad, of the Jabalya refugee camp, died on Saturday night. He had been in hospital since being shot in the stomach during a demonstration on Jan. 15 last year.

Sad's death raised to 916 the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis during the 4-1/2-year-old revolt against the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In another development, Israel on Sunday freed four Palestinians seized 19 months off a boat sailing from Cyprus to Lebanon on suspicion they belonged to Fateh.

The were the second batch of Palestinians to be freed from Israeli jails and handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross in recent weeks.

The Israeli army said in a statement that the neo were freed and expelled across the border after completing their prison sentences.

It said the men had told their interrogators they were trained in Libya to carry out an attack against Israel. Israel Radio said they belonged to Fateh.

The men were brought handcuffed and blindfolded in an Israeli army convoy to the Lebanese border town of Naqoura at 3:15 p.m. (1215 GMT), security sources in South Lebanon said.

Waiting ICRC delegates drove the men to the Swiss organisation's offices in Tyre for reunion with their families who then took them to their homes in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh, near Sidon, 40 kilometres north of Tyre.

Kabul quiet after day of rocket attacks

KABUL (Agencies) — Kabul was quiet but without water and power on Sunday following rocket attacks on the city which killed at least 100 people and wounded 300.

Hezb-e-Islami forces led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar bombed the Afghan capital from positions in the mountains to the south on Saturday and traded fire with government forces.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani, serving his first week in office, narrowly avoided injury when a rocket fell in the courtyard of the presidential palace less than 100 metres from where he was holding a meeting.

It was impossible to confirm who started the battle, but tensions rose earlier in the week after the ruling Afghan leadership council started clearing the city of armed men.

Mr. Rabbani condemned the rocket assault and the Defence Ministry accused Mr. Hekmatyar of masterminding the barrage to

protest government attempts to evict hundreds of heavily armed rebels from the unpoliced capital. Mr. Hekmatyar denied the accusation and blamed undisciplined militia who control most of the city.

Mr. Hekmatyar has so far withheld participation of his Hezb-e-Islami faction in the new Islamic government that replaced communist rule under President Najibullah in late April.

Ustad Fared, a rebel commander appointed Afghanistan's designated prime minister who is loyal to Mr. Hekmatyar, was to arrive in the Afghan capital on Sunday and end Hezb-e-Islami's two-month boycott.

But Mr. Hekmatyar is demanding that a tough Uzbek militia headed by General Abdul Rashid Dostam be evicted from Kabul before his party joins a power sharing pact that was cobbled together to fill the void created by the collapse of the Marxist regime.

Bush urges Poland to push reform

WARSAW (AP) — Cheered by flag-waving crowds, U.S. President George Bush on Sunday urged Poland not to abandon its painful struggle with economic reforms. "Free government and free markets will bring Poland a bright future," he said.

"The path you have chosen is the right path," he declared.

On a brief but symbolically important visit, Mr. Bush met with President Lech Walesa and attended an emotional burial ceremony for Polish pianist and statesman Ignace Jan Paderewski, whose dying wish in New York 51 years ago was to be buried in a free Poland.

"Today a patriot has come home," Mr. Bush said in speech in Castle Square after Mr. Paderewski's remains were put to rest in the crypt of St. John the Baptist Cathedral.

Mr. Bush got a warm reception, applauded repeatedly by the crowd of thousands, and later flew to Munich for the economic summit of the world's richest industrialised nations.

Thousands of Poles waving Polish and U.S. flags had lined Bush's motorcade route and crowded into the square to greet the American president.

Church bells pealed loudly as Paderewski's body was brought on a cortege through the streets of Poland's old city.

In his speech, Mr. Bush said the bells "toll not simply the solemn requiem but a new beginning, a few birth of freedom, for Poland and its people. It is a new beginning not just for Poland but for all of Europe and the world."

In a clear reference to the public backlash against high prices and unemployment that have accompanied economic reforms, Mr. Bush said, "teaching your dreams will be difficult."

Yet, he added, "Poland's time of trial is not caused by private enterprise, but by the stubborn legacy of four decades of communist mis-rule. Make no mistake: The path you have chosen is the right path...."

Yemen, S. Arabia to discuss border dispute

SANAA (AP) — Yemen and Saudi Arabia have agreed to open talks later this month on a territorial dispute in their oil-rich border area, officials and diplomats confirmed Sunday.

The longstanding quarrel flared anew earlier this year, with Western oil companies caught in the middle. It fanned traditional hostility in Yemen towards Saudi Arabia.

The government-run daily newspaper Al Thawra reported Sunday that the ministerial-level talks would be held in two weeks in Geneva. It did not elaborate.

A Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed the report but refused to provide more details.

"The dispute should be solved with all determination and through negotiation... otherwise it will remain a thorn that hurts relations between the two neighbouring and brotherly peoples," Al Thawra wrote.

Western diplomats in Yemen said the talks were made possible after a visit by Claude Cheysson, a French member of the European Parliament who was formerly European Community external relations commissioner.

In late May, Riyadh had said it was interested in good-neighbourly relations with Sanaa and blamed Yemen for failure to delineate the border. Yemen welcomed the statement and called for negotiations to settle the issue.

The Western diplomats, who spoke on condition they not be identified further, said there have been incursions recently by Saudi border patrols in frontier areas where Western companies are exploring for oil.

In March, the Saudi Foreign Ministry had warned six Western oil companies to stop drilling in the region, which Saudi Arabia considers its own. Yemen, alarmed at the threat to its oil

industry, has rejected the Saudi territorial claim.

Saudi Arabia later strongly denied reports that it was threatening military action if the oil companies did not pull out of the region.

The Middle East Economic Survey, an oil weekly published in Cyprus, reported last month that British Petroleum subsequently suspended its operations in the area, and France's Elf Aquitaine Petroleum was "keeping a low profile."

But American and Canadian companies — Hunt Oil, Phillips, Petro-Canada and Atlantic Richfield — continued to operate normally, the newsletter said.

It reported the United States was making "active, but quiet diplomatic moves" to defuse the crisis.

The disputed territory a 800 kilometres stretch of desert running from the Red Sea coast to the Rub Al Khali, the "Empty

Quarter" in the centre of the Arabian Peninsula.

Saudi-Yemeni relations nose-dived in August 1990 when Yemen showed sympathy with Iraq in the wake of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The Saudis retaliated by expelling nearly one million Yemeni workers, drastically worsening the economic woes of Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the Arab World.

The country of 12 million people also is struggling to cope with an influx of 50,000 refugees from war-torn Somalia.

Yemen, which sits astride the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean on Arabia's southwestern tip, has recently discovered modest quantities of oil and is currently producing 170,000 barrels a day.

Its recoverable reserves are estimated at five billion barrels, a minute amount compared to the Saudis' 255 billion barrels.

Syria says Golan not for leasing

CAIRO (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said on Saturday the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights were not for leasing and that the Jewish state must return every inch of the territory.

"The Golan Heights are Syrian territory and every inch must be returned. They are not on offer for leasing at all," he told reporters at Cairo airport as he arrived to take part in an Arab League meeting on Lebanon.

Israel occupied the heights from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war.

Mr. Sharaa was asked about comments by Israel's Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin back in April in which Mr. Rabin said he was willing to consider proposals for Syria to lease the strategic area to the Jewish state.

"I believe that Israel should not go down from the Golan

Heights, even in the context of a peace treaty," Mr. Rabin said, two months before he was asked to form an Israeli government after a surprise election win.

"At the same time, there is limited room for a territorial compromise. There might be other compromises which I will not elaborate on, like leasing the land," he added.

Mr. Sharaa was also asked to comment on remarks by Mr. Rabin on Thursday that he would give priority to the Palestinian issue in current peace talks.

"The peace process in which Syria and the Arab sides are participating is comprehensive and aims at the restoration of all the occupied territories. Any settlement must cover all fronts," he said.

Israel and its Arab neighbours started historic peace talks last

October but the process has been slow and little progress has been achieved.

Mr. Sharaa said Damascus wanted the Middle East peace process to proceed in line with guidelines set by the United States, which co-sponsors the talks with Russia.

He also said the foreign ministers of Arab countries bordering Israel — Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan — and the Palestine Liberation Organisation would hold consultations in Cairo on the peace talks.

He said the ministers would discuss a date for a meeting they were expected to hold in Damascus to evaluate the peace process following Mr. Rabin's election victory.

Egypt is the only Arab country that has ended a formal state of war with Israel following their



Farouk Sharaa
1979 peace treaty. But it has said it will advise Arab states in peace negotiations.

Shin Bet nixes diplomats for marijuana use

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's secret police is empowered to prevent the promotion of foreign ministry employees if they smoke marijuana, the Itim national news agency reported Saturday.

Itim said that details of an appeal to the supreme court by a foreign ministry employee slated for a diplomatic appointment show for the first time that the Shin Bet, Israel's secret police, has the power to prevent appointments because of marijuana use.

The report also said that the case reveals for the first time that the Shin Bet bases its evidence on nothing more than polygraph tests.

The agency is empowered to prevent promotion even after the appointee has signed a contract and quit his other work, the report said.

The employee in question appealed the Shin Bet decision to a local labour court and the national labour court, Itim said. His name, job and country of destination were suppressed by the courts.

The Shin Bet decision was upheld in both cases. The employee is now appealing the case to the supreme court, the report said.

It said that a senior Shin Bet officer testified that repeated use of marijuana could adversely affect performance in a sensitive job.

The report added that the employee rejected Shin Bet polygraph findings that he was still smoking marijuana, claiming he had not touched the drug since 1981.

Algerians mourn their future on Independence Day

By Elaine Ganley
The Associated Press

ALGIERS — Torn by Islamic extremism, economically crippled and officially in mourning, Algeria had nothing to celebrate Sunday as it marked its independence from France three decades ago.

The assassination last week of ruler Mohammed Boudiaf evoked the most sinister moments of this country's past.

"Once again, we find ourselves in a dark hole at the beginning of a tunnel," said Had Ali Smail, a noted intellectual at the University of Algiers.

Mr. Boudiaf's slaying Monday raised fears of increased repression by the ruling High State Council he headed, and a new infusion of life for the Muslim fundamentalist movement, decimated by a crackdown but far from dead.

A tract from the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) appeared on the walls of a mosque Friday, saying the military-backed leadership had a choice: "To give the word back to the people... or increase the cycle of violence."

The government Saturday accused a 26-year-old second lieutenant — a member of Mr. Boudiaf's presidential guard — of the killing. Authorities identified him as M'harek Boumaaraef, Algerian Television said.

The government implied Boumaaraef acted with others, but gave no motive.

Suspicion had immediately fal-

len on the FIS. But weight was increasingly given to theories that corrupt officials within the political-military establishment ordered the murder.

The 73-year-old Boudiaf had targeted both elements as part of his vow to bring about "radical change."

Six months ago, Algeria was moving to become the second Arab country with a democratically elected parliament.

The army, the pillar of power for 30 years, changed the course of events when it became clear Muslim fundamentalists would take control of parliament, enabling them to create an Islamic state.

The military deposed President Chadli Benjedid and created the ruling five-man committee to oversee the crisis. Mr. Boudiaf, a war hero living in exile for 28 years, was fetched from Morocco to preside over the country.

A year-long state of emergency was declared and a crackdown on fundamentalists began. Even those hostile to the new power structure were stunned by Mr. Boudiaf's assassination, and fearful for the country's future.

"This is a situation comparable to July 1962 when the country gained independence and a major crisis arose, which left the people crushed," said Hocine Ait Ahmed, head of the Front for Socialist Forces, one of 50 now-dormant political parties.

Mr. Boudiaf and Mr. Ait Ahmed were two of the nine

founders of the National Liberation Front, the fighting force that won the war for independence and then turned on itself in bloody factional fighting.

Mr. Boudiaf and Mr. Ait Ahmed chose exile.

Then and now, the events constitute a "spiritual genocide against the hopes of a people," Mr. Ait Ahmed said in an interview.

The National Liberation Front, transformed into a political movement, went on to rule the country for nearly three decades. Its Marxist-socialist policies left a legacy of corruption and spiritual emptiness that the FIS moved to fill.

Although hanned, its leaders jailed and thousands of supporters held in detention camps, the FIS is still perceived as a major threat.

Attacks by Islamic guerrillas, killing up to 100 police and soldiers, have maintained pressure on authorities and established a mentality of violence "as something almost normal," according to Dr. Smail of the University of Algiers, who heads a committee against torture.

No one will seriously speculate on the course the ruling council will now take. Its new leader, Ali Kafi, is seen as a hardline replacement for Mr. Boudiaf. But the decision not to name Defence Minister Khaled Nezzar, the council's strongman, could mean a reprieve from an even more authoritarian stance.

Israeli family found slain

TEL AVIV (AP) — A family of five was found dead Sunday of gunshot wounds in their home in southern Israel, and police suspect the father shot his wife and three children, then committed suicide because of debts.

The slayings occurred in Metar, a communal settlement near the city of Beersheba, apparently early Sunday, Israeli radios said. A relative found the bodies at about 9:00 a.m. (0600 GMT).

Police did not give the family's name but said the man was an insurance salesman. Neighbours said the family was well liked and religiously observant.

"Police arrived and found a horrific site. On the first floor, the father and his wife were found dead, and their three children aged 16 to 24," said Shimon Levy, deputy police commander in the southern region.

"It appears it was murder and suicide," he told army radio. The family dog was also found in a pool of blood near the kitchen and five lighted candles were in the house.

Mr. Levy said the family had "financial complications" and the murder weapons was the father's licensed pistol.

He said there was a suicide note but would not reveal its contents. Radio reports said a note from the father asked "forgiveness of anyone I have harmed."

The radios said the children were the son, 16, a student at a religious seminary; a daughter, 18, who served in the army; and another daughter, 24, a university student.

Lucia Mendez sings in Lebanon defying carbomb

BEIRUT (R) — Mexican singer Lucia Mendez, defying a carbomb attack at a soccer stadium which killed three people, performed there as scheduled for thousands of cheering fans on Saturday night.

"I promise to tell the world that Beirut has peace," a smiling Mendez told a large studio audience at the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC) television before the show.

A child was among the three dead in the car explosion — the first this year in Lebanon — which appeared to be an attempt to sabotage Ms. Mendez's widely-publicised show after a dispute between local sponsors.

Security sources said a Mercedes-Benz car, packed with some 10 kilograms of explosives, blew up on Saturday morning at the entrance of the 20,000-seat stadium, in the port city of Jounieh, where Ms. Mendez performed under heavy security.

The dark-haired beauty who was clearly shaken said on LBC: "Please understand I just came here to say hello, to sing my songs and to wish you peace and friendship."

Information Minister Michel Samaha, who visited the scene of the blast, said it was the work of the "dirty mafia."

Two people were wounded in

the blast, the sources said. Scores of carbombs killed hundreds of Lebanese during 15 years of sectarian violence which ended in 1990.

On Thursday, a hand grenade was hurled at the fence of the stadium in Jounieh, 15 kilometres north of Beirut.

"The explosion will not affect Lucia or us," Chantal Tarabay of Beirut's JCT Production, which contracted Ms. Mendez, told Reuters by telephone. "I don't know what to say. It's very low."

Four other cars were destroyed and several nearby shops were heavily damaged in the blast that was heard as far as Beirut.

Ms. Mendez became a sensation in Lebanon after Jounieh-based LBC earlier this year screened the Mexican soap opera "Yon or nobody" in which she stars under the stage name Raquel.

Her songs, including the soap opera's hit theme "Corazon de Piedra" which means "heart of stone" in Spanish, drew long applause from the audience which was estimated at 8,000.

Radio stations said Ms. Mendez, scheduled to stage a second show on Sunday, was received by President Elias Hrawi's wife Mona in the capital after the bomb explosion.

Group of U.N. observers moves to Mogadishu

NAIROBI (R) — Five U.N. military observers left Nairobi for Mogadishu on Sunday to prepare ground for a larger group that will monitor a fragile ceasefire between warring factions in the Somali capital.

The advance party is part of a 50-strong team of observers from Austria, Bangladesh, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco and Zimbabwe, headed by Pakistani Brigadier-General Imtiaz Shaheen.

Their mission follows months of United Nations efforts to bring peace to Somalia, shattered by 18 months of factional fighting that has left millions in need of food and shelter.

The U.N. group will not intervene in the fighting. Proposals to send an additional armed U.N. force to guard food aid supplies collapsed amid disagreements among the Somali factions.

The main opposition to the idea came from the country's most powerful warlord, General Mohammed Farah Aided, whose forces control most of the country. Gen. Aided has instead called for a national conference to enable a coalition government

to be formed for Somalia. Somalia has been split between rival groups since President Mohammed Siad Barre, now in exile in Nigeria, was ousted from Mogadishu early last year.

The northern part of the country has declared itself the independent republic of Somaliland, with its capital at Hargeisa.

Part of Mogadishu is controlled by Ali Mahdi Mohammed, who was appointed interim president of Somalia at a meeting of several Somali groups, held last year in neighbouring Djibouti. But Gen. Aided refuses to accept Mr. Ali Mahdi as the country's leader.

Aid workers contacted by telephone in Mogadishu on Sunday said the situation in most parts of the capital was relatively calm, but undisciplined armed gangs, many of them teenagers, were still in control in many areas.

Hundreds of thousands of civilians have fled from the city, where many buildings have been destroyed or damaged in the fighting. Most are camped in nearby rural areas, short of food, water and shelter.

Thousands more have fled the country, seeking refuge in Kenya, Djibouti and Yemen — many of them dying on the way.

Lebanon appeals for Arab help

CAIRO (R) — Lebanon urged Arab states on Saturday to exert efforts to ensure an immediate end to the Israeli occupation of its south.

It also pleaded for financial help to face the economic cost of reconstruction after the end of the Lebanese civil war.

Addressing the opening session of a special Arab League meeting, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez told Arab foreign ministers and senior officials that solving Lebanon's problems was a pan-Arab responsibility.

The meeting was called on the ministerial level to discuss increased Israeli attacks in South Lebanon where the Jewish state holds a self-declared "security zone."

"These repeated Israeli aggressions and the calamities they cause in the south... do not only represent a challenge to international legitimacy or the Lebanese government alone but are also a test for Arab preparedness," Mr. Bouez said.

The Lebanese minister reminded the meeting of several Arab decisions taken at summit levels in the late 1980s stating that Arab states were committed to help Beirut extend its authority over Lebanese land and rebuild after a destructive 15-year civil war.

"In a moment of truth, let us take one stand... and surprise the world of our awareness and unity. Let South Lebanon be an opening for a new Arab charter," he said in an emotional appeal.

Mr. Bouez also reminded the ministers and officials that financial Arab commitments worth \$2 billion to cover the cost of reconstruction remained largely ignored. Only \$400 million had been met, he said.

He also recalled Arab approval of a special fund to help Lebanon overcome the consequences of its civil war. No steps had been taken to set up the fund, he added.

Mr. Bouez urged the 21-member league to form a ministerial committee that would contact the United Nations and key world powers to get Israel to implement a U.N. Security Council resolution demanding full Israeli withdrawal from the south.

He accused Israel of seeking to drive southern Lebanese residents north to create problems for the central government and change the demographic nature of the area.

He said his government, with few resources, had done its best to remedy the effects of Israeli occupation.

"Despite these attempts and measures, the fact remains that needs and requirements surpass potentials... the fact remains that solidarity is needed to join your efforts and ours in one action," he said.

Peaceniks, whistle blowers in Israeli halls of power

TEL AVIV (AP) — After warning parliament's back benches for two decades, the peace activists and whistle blowers on the Israeli left have won their first shot at a seat in the government.

An alliance of three dovish factions known as Meretz, or "Democratic Israel," gained 12 parliamentary seats in June 23 national elections, making it Israel's third strongest party behind the Labour and Likud factions.

This nearly clinches Meretz a role in the next Israeli cabinet, and on Friday it opened negotiations with Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin of Labour.

Mr. Rabin will need help turning his party's 44 seats into a majority in the 120-member parliament. Meretz's peace stance makes it a natural ally for Mr. Rabin, who has promised speedier talks on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied

territories. Some in Meretz — a bloc of the Ratz, Shinui and Mapam parties — see their electoral success reflecting a greater openness to compromise with the Arabs.

"The people are maturing, they want peace," Meretz leader Shulamit Aloni said in an interview. Israelis now believe "it is no sin to want a good life... you cannot simply tell people anymore you have to sacrifice and die for your country."

An audacious speaker and one of few women to openly challenge the country's rabbis, Ms. Aloni molded a political career out of a one-woman crusade for civil liberties, women's rights and a separation of church and state.

Ms. Aloni, 62, won her first parliamentary seat with Labour in 1965. But she was dropped when her liberal views put her at odds with Prime Minister

Golda Meir, whose childhood in Russia left her preoccupied with security.

Ms. Aloni, a cosmopolitan woman raised in Tel Aviv, said Ms. Meir did not understand her talk about improving Israel's quality of life.

"When I started to speak about human rights, such as the need for a constitution guaranteeing personal liberties and women's rights, Golda Meir said I was selfish... she said it was bourgeois, bourgeois egoism," Ms. Aloni recalled.

Ms. Aloni founded the Citizen's Rights Movement, or Ratz, in 1973. She was a minister-without-portfolio in a Rabin government in 1974 but quit when Mr. Rabin offered compromises to coax a religious party into his government.

Ratz began as a movement to rid Israel of orthodox rabbis' monopoly over marriage and

divorce. But it broadened its scope to include peace issues and the treatment of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the election, Ratz formed a bloc with Amnon Rubinstein's Shinui and Yair Tsaaban's Mapam, two other parties that support compromises for peace.

Mr. Rubinstein, Tsaaban and Ratz members Dedi Zucker and Yossi Sarid made a career out of exposing wrongdoings in government. Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, often a target of the campaign, once described the group as "stool pigeon commandos."

In fact, some observers attribute Meretz's latest electoral gains most to its pitches against corruption and excesses by the outgoing, Likud-led cabinet.

"We very much succeeded in capitalising on the mood of the country, an overall desire for change," said Nanmi Chazan,

45, a newly elected legislator on the Meretz ticket, which includes two other women and an Arab.

Meretz's 12 seats give it more than its constituent parties had in the last parliament. It is reportedly vying for control of three ministries: Justice, education and interior.

Ms. Aloni will not reveal which portfolio she wants, but says she dreams of peace and achieving promise of equality and human dignity.

Meretz's only worry about getting into the government is that Mr. Rabin, just like in 1974, is trying to win backing from religious parties. But he was quoted Friday as saying he never thought of forming a government without Meretz.

Ms. Aloni answered with a hearty laugh when asked how her offbeat protest movement goes so close to power.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Au Clair de Lune
18:10 Le Monde, Sans Matin
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Close to Home
21:10 Perfect Heavy
22:00 News in English
22:30 Gold

PRAYER TIMES

05:54 Fajr
05:24 (Sunrise) Duha
12:39 Dhuhr
16:20 'Asr
19:49 Maghrib
21:22 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 510740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teresian Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932.
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be hot, dusty and dry winds will be light and variable. In Amman, there will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 22 / 26
Aqaba 25 / 43
Dohra 20 / 40
Jordan Valley 24 / 40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 37, Aqaba 43. Humidity readings: Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Khalil Jabali 740740
Dr. Ahmed Dabab 791257
Dr. Walid Salawneh 799991
Dr. Salwan Dabab 776751
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Azma pharmacy 637055
Narouth pharmacy 626671
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649495
Shamsan pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Baker ()
AL Shana's pharmacy (775825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Fadel ()
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 77121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 515615
Electric Power 636381
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Al-Khal Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhan, J. Amman 636140
Al-Ahli, Abdull 664171/4
University Hospital 69131
Al-Muhammed Hospital 845

Ministry restricts issuance of water metres to contractors to save water

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation announced Sunday that it would not issue anymore water metres to contractors for temporary use during construction.

A ministry statement said that the reason behind the decision is that the ministry has been bombarded with applications by citizens requiring metres for their homes. Following the return to Jordan of hundreds of thousands of expatriates from the Gulf, demand for construction material, and water metres by expatriates and contractors building homes has greatly increased.

The statement said that the metres will not be issued to contractors because they open the door for increased water consumption when drinking water is being saved for domestic use. The

water is also purified for drinking and not for building.

The ministry statement added that those wishing to get water for construction can obtain it from privately owned water wells at 250 fils a cubic metre.

Last May, the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) said it expected the construction business to boom because of the number of plans submitted for approval by the various contracting firms. Contractors and developers have submitted plans for buildings with a total area of 1.2 million square metres in the first quarter of 1992 and this volume is expected to rise to five million by the end of 1992. JEA President Hosni Abu Ghaida was quoted as saying in May.

The boom in construction, he said, was a natural result of the

move by local banks and financial institutions to enter the real estate business alongside the returning expatriates in need of homes to settle here, said Mr. Abu Ghaida.

The ministry's decision comes one day after announcing a decision by the Water Authority in Jordan (WAJ) to launch a campaign to spread awareness among members of the public on the need to rationalise water consumption and to carry out other necessary measures to restrict the amount of water used for domestic and industrial purposes.

Ministry Secretary General Mutazz Al Bilbeisi said that the first phase of the campaign entails airing television and radio programmes, holding seminars, the distributing of leaflets and posters, and other ways to urge the public to economise on water.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Tamimi and Mivan representative Henry Johnston sign Dome of the Rock restoration deal.

British firm signs deal to restore holy shrine for JD 4.8 million

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British construction firm Mivan signed a deal Sunday with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to help restore the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem in 540 days for £3,851,090 (almost JD4.8 million).

Last week, the ministry announced that a British construction firm had won the contract to restore the holy shrine, noting that the British firm made the lowest bid for the project.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Tamimi, who made the announcement, signed the deal Sunday at his office with Henry Johnston, a representative of the British firm. Mr. Tamimi added later that 14 days will be needed for the scaffolding and other preparatory work before restoration of the dome can begin.

The company is to cover the dome with goldplated copper sheets supported by lead beams, restore the roofs, and install an early warning system against fires, the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after the signing ceremony.

The minister, who heads a committee charged with the task of restoration, said that the British firm was chosen because committee members were convinced it would do the job better than the other four international firms vying for project.

The minister voiced the committee's appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein, who had offered to pay \$8.24 million of the restoration project.

Mr. Johnston pledged that Mivan will carry out the work to the day noting that Mivan had earlier carried out similar restoration projects in other Islamic oases.

Mr. Johnston added that the materials to be employed in the restoration work would be the highest quality found in the international markets, including the United Kingdom.

Fifteen companies had earlier showed interest in carrying out

the project, estimated to cost \$10 million, but only five of them qualified.

Jordan has announced its commitment to cover the cost of restoring the Dome of the Rock, noting that the commitment was in line with the Kingdom's policy to support the Palestinians and to

safeguard the holy shrine.

Jordan has made it clear that the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) should not interfere in the work of the committee following a bid by Saudi Arabia to finance the project through the organisation.

CBJ allows businessmen to invest in Arab states

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian entrepreneurs can now invest their money in other Arab countries, in accordance with new regulations announced by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) on Sunday.

A statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the CBJ has decided to allow Jordanian businessmen to invest in projects in other Arab countries provided those countries offer reciprocal rules to their nationals.

Such a step could further bolster ties with other Arab states in investment, economic activity and capital flow, the statement said. The statement added that the decision was made to strengthen financial and economic links with the Arab World.

Commenting on the measure, Jordanian economist Faid Al Fanek said that Jordanian businessmen have already been investing in other countries but that the CBJ statement stamped the practice as being openly supported by the government.

He told the Jordan Times that since neighbouring countries do not allow such practices, it is

quite reasonable to assume that businessmen can only invest in projects in oil-rich Arab countries and in Yemen and North African Arab states.

Mr. Fanek noted that on the whole, such a measure is bound to encourage Jordanians to do business abroad and earn badly-needed hard currency for the country.

The statement came one week after a visit to the Central Bank by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker who said later that he was deeply satisfied with the financial and economic situation in Jordan.

Everything seems to be reassuring and satisfactory and all measures related to monetary and banking matters seem to be conducted in conformity with the economic restructuring programme, Mr. Zeid said after meeting with the CBJ governor.

Official CBJ figures recently released showed that the Kingdom has gold and foreign currency reserves estimated at JD1.039 billion at the end of March 1992. It is the highest figure of gold and foreign currency reserves in the Kingdom since 1981.

Jordan TV, radio start transmissions

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Radio and Television Corporation starts its trial transmission Sunday on channel 21 and channel 31 from Beir Haddad station in the South of Jordan. The station serves Al Qadisiyah, Najf, Mubammadiah, Husseiniah, Athruh, Al Hashimieh, Juheir, Beir Al Habbagha, Beir Haddad, Shobak and Hwalah. The corporation will stop transmitting from Najf station in Shobak, which broadcasts on channel 48, as of Sunday. The corporation will also start trial transmission from Rashadih station on Monday on channels 55 and 61.

Rashadih station serves Mubammadiah, Hashemieh, Husseiniah, Ein Al Baida, Al Mansourah, Maqariyah, Shamal, Qadisiyah, South Cement Housing estate, Zuhairiah, Shobak, Najf, Beir Haddad, Beir Al Dabaghah, Hwalah and Juheir.

A third station, Al Hala station in Tafleh, will also start its trial transmission on Monday on channel 32 and 35. The station will serve Al Baida, Jurf Al Darawish, Bseira, Ain Al Baida, Al Hasa and some areas in Tafleh governorate.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King Hussein congratulates Venezuela

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to Venezuelan President Carlos Perez congratulating him on his own name and on behalf of Jordan's people and government on his country's national day. The King wished Mr. Perez continued good health and happiness and the Venezuelan people further progress and prosperity. The King also sent a cable to Head of the Algerian High State Council Ali Kafi, congratulating him on his selection as head of the council. King Hussein wished him success in leading his nation and wished the Algerian people every progress and prosperity.

Prime minister receives former Sudanese president

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday received former Sudanese president Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swareddah, who is also head of the Islamic Dawa Organisation. Mr. Swareddah briefed Sharif Zeid on the situations in Sudan and the efforts being made to safeguard its national unity and achieve progress and prosperity, through its national resources. Mr. Swareddah also reviewed the role of the Islamic Dawa Organisation in alleviating the sufferings of Africans, caused by drought and famine in African continent.

Income tax collection increases

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax department has collected JD73,506,479 during the first six months of this year, compared with JD63,677,687 during the same period last year, according to the Department Director General Mansour Haddadin. He pointed out that the department has collected JD4,657,458 in June alone, compared with JD4,107,893 during the same month last year. This means an increase of 13.37 per cent in June's collection this year.

Abu Odeh welcomes ESCWA session to be held in Amman

NEW YORK (J.T.) — Jordan's ambassador to the United Nations Sunday welcomed a decision by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to hold its 16th session in Amman next month.

Mr. Adnan Abu Odeh said in an address at the U.N. organisation that Jordan would offer its facilities for a gathering and would help it to be a success.

ESCWA said that the meeting, between Aug. 30 and Sept. 4, would be attended by the 13-member organisation to debate economic and social development and will strive to promote regional cooperation as envisioned by ESCWA.

The ESCWA announcement was made by its executive secretary Tayseer Abdul Jabbar at the

U.N. economic and social council in New York last week.

Dr. Abdel Jabbar said that although the region continued to feel the aftershocks of the Gulf crisis there were positive features to be cultivated and used as to enhance regional cooperation.

In his address, Dr. Abdel Jabbar said that a few countries in the region are progressing towards countering the damage caused by the Gulf crisis and noted that ESCWA's initiative would offer a new opportunity for regional cooperation.

In particular, Dr. Abdel Jabbar said the situation in Jordan as well as in Egypt, Yemen and Syria was causing problems for national economies and that International Monetary Fund programmes are to be implemented to adjust the situation.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalous at Baladiah Art Gallery.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Iraqi artist Mohammad Al Baladawi at Alfa Art Gallery.

College at ACOR - 7:30 p.m.

- ★ Lecture in Arabic on "The Role of Finance in the Zionist Media" by Egyptian film critic Samir Farid at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.

LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "The Culture-Historical Approach and Moabite Origins" by Dr. Gerald Mattingly of Johnson Bible

FILM

- ★ French film entitled "Maevais Song" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

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- 50 Starting Your Own Business
- 08 Legal Assistant
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Looking beyond

IF THE RESULTS of the June 23 Israeli general elections are any indication, then the offer by Premier-designate Yitzhak Rabin to hold a referendum on returning occupied Arab land in exchange for peace stands an even chance to produce a majority "yes" vote. But that should not be taken for granted since many other elements, mostly internal, had come into play during the election campaign and the yearning for peace was not the only factor that prompted Israeli voters to extend a stunning victory to Mr. Rabin's Labour Party.

It has been a widely propagated argument by many in the Arab World as well as outside that a genuine and long-lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly the Palestinian problem, could come only if the average Israeli on the street is convinced that the Arabs are seeking genuine peace with Israel and have accepted the concept of coexistence based on the inalienable rights of the Palestinians as well as the other involved Arabs.

By far, the Arab World has come a long way ahead in this direction and the very fact that all the major Arab parties involved in the conflict are engaged in diplomatic negotiations has no doubt been recorded in many Israeli minds as a sign of goodwill and genuine desire for peace. But there are many others in Israel who are exactly not very sure that the Arabs are ready for a lasting settlement that they would continue to honour beyond the requirements of the present-day strategic balance in the region. There are still other Israelis who have no intention of ever giving up any territory to anyone, least of all the Palestinians, and are deaf to all voices of reason and logic.

It is the undecided segment of the Israeli electorate that would assume the make-or-break role in the event of a referendum as offered by Mr. Rabin. What the Arabs do at every point in time and during the peace negotiations with Israel will come under the closest scrutiny and every Arab move in any direction could be distorted by the rejectionists — the so-called Israeli "nationalists" and rightists — to influence the undecided.

Diplomacy and reaffirmation of Arab national positions based on no compromises over Arab rights and international legitimacy should go hand in hand towards convincing the Israeli voter to say "yes" to the land-for-peace formula. But over and above everything what matters is to look beyond and see what is the shape of a solution that Mr. Rabin would be offering. If indeed he continues to hold onto his "no-to-political-settlements-but-yes-to-security-settlements" approach, then it is a non-starter.

Perhaps then, part of the answer lies in collective action with the forces of peace in Israel that appeared to have receded into the backdrop with the Palestinian intifada. If an Israeli cannot convince one of his or her compatriot of the just requirements for peace, no-one can.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Sunday commented on repressive measures being escalated against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands and said that those who had bet on the Labour government for a settlement must have bet on a losing horse. It is clear that Israel is determined to escalate acts of repression directed against Palestinians involved in the intifada, and it is clear that the Israelis are embarking on unprecedented measures that are characteristic of the evil nature of the Jewish state, said the daily. It seems that the Rabin government will be an extension to that of the Shamir government in terms of repression and atrocities committed against the Palestinians, said the daily. If Mr. Rabin is to prove his point as a man of peace, as he had claimed, he should abandon all forms of atrocities and strive to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, demanded the daily. If Mr. Rabin is to prove his point as a man of peace, as he had claimed, he should abandon all forms of atrocities and strive to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, demanded the daily. It said that the coming Labour government should take measures designed to speed up the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights and the establishment of peace based on justice. The iron-fist policy which Mr. Rabin has threatened to use against the intifada can achieve nothing for the ruling party and for the Israeli people since the Palestinians are determined to pursue the struggle for freedom at any cost, the paper pointed out. The intifada is the voice of the Palestinians in the face of the occupation and repression, and Mr. Rabin ought to realise that this intifada is bound to continue unabated until freedom has been gained, the paper continued. The paper called on Mr. Rabin and the Labour government to introduce measures to reflect their interests in peace and to pave the ground for successful negotiations.

THE FACT that the Arab League council opened a session in Cairo attracts little attention in the Arab World, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. Abdul Rahim Omar said that since the establishment of the League in the 1940s, the council has been holding futile meetings dealing with issues that are never solved and, in fact, further complicating relations among the League members. The writer said that the Arab League, which is holding sessions at present, has failed to meet the minimum requirements of ending inter-Arab differences or helping the Palestinians to regain their rights and has met no success in dealing with the external danger posed to the nation.

Weekly Political Pulse

U.N. human rights efforts leave much to be desired

The unprecedented Arab League initiative, few weeks ago, calling for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) to deal with the "deteriorating situation" in the West Bank in general and Gaza Strip in particular goes to the heart of the matter as far as the United Nations efforts to promote and protect human rights worldwide is concerned. By and large, the existing international mechanisms and machineries dealing with gross and systematic human rights violations fall into two major categories: First are the strictly U.N. endeavours that fall within the purview and scope of the U.N. Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs, mainly the U.N. Commission on Human Rights and its auxiliary body, the U.N. Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities. In fact the title of this sub-commission has little to do with its actual work and function as for all intents and purposes its mandate goes much further than the minority and discrimination issues that its name implies. These two basic bodies that service the U.N. human rights efforts are also assisted by several working groups and so-called special rapporteurs.

The other category of international bodies dealing with human rights endeavours are the so-called treaty bodies that are created by the various human rights conventions that came into force after a certain minimum number of states ratified them. On the top of the list of such treaty bodies is the Human Rights Committee, an 18-member body charged with the task of monitoring the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is also serviced by an 18-member committee of experts. Then there is the Convention against Torture that is also equipped by its own 12-member committee and the Convention on the Right of the Child, which is equally assisted by its own special committee of experts. The list of such bodies goes on and on to cover also the

deliberations pertaining to the conventions on the eliminations of all forms of discrimination against women as well as the one against all forms of racial discrimination. This second category of international bodies monitoring human rights violations falling within their respective mandates are also assisted by working groups and special rapporteurs.

On the face of things, these U.N. and treaty bodies are more than sufficient to deal effectively with the increasing human rights violations in the world. After all, there are so many of them meeting mostly at the U.N. Headquarters in Geneva for most part of the summer. The concentration of human rights meetings at the U.N. European base year in and year out has prompted many human rights watchers to call the summer seasons there the human rights seasons. Yet a closer look at the human rights activities either by the U.N. or under its aegis would readily indicate that human rights efforts are anything but satisfactory or effective. For starters, the periodic meetings of the strictly U.N. bodies are virtually ritualistic, lacking dynamism or timely responses. The agendas of these fora have become routinely replete with the same items year after year with only occasional attempts to include fresh subjects on their long agendas.

The deliberations of these bodies are almost always predictable and highly politicised due to their compositions. With rare exceptions, most governments seek and cover places on such bodies not so much out of concern for human rights causes but rather to protect themselves from repeated charges that they are prime violators of human rights or to use their memberships as a political whip against their enemies. Only the Scandinavian countries can be described as pure human rights activists in these U.N. bodies. Next in line are the other Western countries and few select developing countries. The rest of the member states are by and large driven by motivations that are truly alien to the human rights cause.

The situation in the treaty bodies is not more rosy. The so-called independent experts that man such bodies are not necessarily always independent or experts. Many are nominated by their respective governments and get elected through the lobbying efforts of their governments and the regional friends and allies of their governments. In recent times, governments got engaged in an open horse trading with one another with each country promising to support the candidature of the other country for no other reason than the offer of the later country to reciprocate this gesture.

What exacerbates the human rights situation in the world is the fact that the functions and mandates of so many U.N. fora and treaty bodies on human rights overlap one another making the entire combined efforts least cost-effective or efficient. This entire combined efforts obviously calls for streamlining the entire international efforts to promote and protect human rights. At the end of the line there can be no escape from the need to establish a U.N. human rights court system to service all the existing international efforts. This objective would necessarily entail the creation of the post of U.N. Human Rights High Commissioner, commensurate with the posts available already in other U.N. concerns.

If the international community of nations truly believes in its avowed conviction that the human rights cause must be elevated to higher plateaus, then more funds need to be diverted to such a noble cause and more streamlining needs to be injected into the human rights systems. Above all, the members state of the various human rights fora must also take the subject more seriously by stopping politicising it at every juncture or level. Hopefully, the Arab League's timely request that the U.N. Commission on Human Rights take up the human rights situation in the occupied Arab territories could serve as the very stimulus that would jolt the international human rights efforts into more responsive and timely actions in this vein.

An opportunity for consensus

By Yitzhak Klein

The Labour Party has won a mandate to proceed with negotiations on autonomy and to conclude a peace on the basis of territorial compromise. Nevertheless, Labour now faces a choice.

It can conclude a painful and divisive peace, whose consequences will rack the internal politics of this country for a generation. Or it can seek consensus, and thus try to bring peace not only along our borders, but within them as well.

Yitzhak Rabin, for his part, seems to appreciate that it would be an error to allow the peace process to be dominated by the more doctrinaire and vindictive elements of the left. He has declared his willingness to seek coalition partners on the right, as long as these accept Labour's political primacy and its main policies.

What should the right do now? It has lost the election, but it remains a potent political force. Whether it holds power or not, no peace that will be acceptable to the country as a whole can be made without its consent. It thus bears a heavy responsibility. Is it not incumbent on the right, as well as on Labour, to ensure that the peace is a peace of consensus? The right must consider carefully its concept of Israel's essential interests, and whether it is compatible with the policy Labour has received a mandate to carry out.

Tsomet and the National Religious Party are seriously considering this question. The chief problem with these two small right-wing parties, however, is that are small. By themselves, they cannot symbolise consensus. For them to enter a Labour-led coalition on their own initiative would smack too much of defection for the sake of a place in the government, no matter how sincere they claimed their motives were. National consensus requires the participation of the Likud.

The Likud's actual participation in the government is possible, but not indispensable.

Labour doubtless does not want the Likud, and many Likud partisans agree that a period in opposition would serve the party's best interests as well.

Even if the Likud is not invited to join the government, the three mainstream Zionist right-wing parties should come to an agreement on the terms on which any of them will join a Labour-led government.

Significantly, all the mainstream right-wing parties favour the continuation of negotiations on autonomy. The chief question now to be resolved are where to draw the borders between Israel and Palestine — for autonomy on Labour's terms is likely to lead to Palestinian sovereignty — and what is to be the fate of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza.

A peace negotiated by Labour will surrender much of Eretz Yisrael that the right would have wanted to keep. Yet perhaps lasting national bitterness can be avoided if Labour and the right

can agree on the following terms:

— Existing settlements, all undeveloped land in the government's possession, and all access routes to these areas from Israel are to be included in the "designated military zones" to which the Israeli army is to withdraw under the Camp David accords.

— Notwithstanding the construction freeze Labour wishes to impose in most of West Bank and Gaza, the government shall construct access roads to existing settlements or undeveloped land that by-pass Palestinian population centres. Where necessary, the government's right of "eminent domain" is to be used to acquire the necessary land. When such roads are built, access routes that pass through Palestinian population centres can be relinquished by the Israeli army.

— The construction freeze on settlements in West Bank and Gaza, to which Labour is committed, shall continue only until, an autonomy agreement is signed, and at any rate for no

longer than one year. After that time, ordinary government-guaranteed mortgages may be applied to dwellings in the settlements, and the government will provide the settlements with infrastructure as needed, on a basis of parity with the rest of the country.

— In the Golan, only the Druse villages may be returned to Syrian possession.

If these conditions can be met, the right should be prepared to support a Labour-led government, and lend legitimacy to the peace settlement Labour concludes. Labour for its part, should welcome the opportunity to create a national consensus for its foreign policy.

If consensus can be reached on the issue of the peace process, a government including the four moderate, centrist Zionist parties — Labour, Likud, Tsomet and the NRP — would be especially opportune at the juncture. The government that is soon to be created must not only contend

with the peace process; it must also address the problem of political and economic reform, so long on the national agenda and so long languishing for lack of consensual support.

Besides the peace process, three major issues confront the nation:

1. Electoral reform, including the completion of the proposal for a "parliamentary" system in its original form and the institution of direct elections to the Knesset. With the departure of Yitzhak Shamir, the chief obstacle to electoral reform has been removed.

2. Economic reform and the resumption of aliya.

3. Normalisation of the status of the haredi community within society; ending their system of "special allocations" and the universal deferment of army service for yeshiva students. This is another issue in which firmness must be tempered with compassion and moderation.

Dr. Klein is a political scientist who comments on public affairs. The above article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

LETTERS

U.S. can't afford fighting major war

To the Editor:

Americans should stop believing in U.S. hegemony of the world. It is not true that the world is bipolar as the Western news media want us to believe. After the demise of the Soviet Union, Russia has taken its place as a superpower, though it has apparently (but not really) become pro-Western. The West should know that, unlike the U.S., Russia is racially and culturally much more homogeneous than the former Soviet Union and, therefore, potentially more powerful economically, politically and maybe even militarily. The future may prove that.

Russia now has no liabilities of providing for the poor Central Asian Muslim Republics. Its homogeneous Slav population makes Russia racially or ethnically more integrated than the racially divided U.S. There are no problems for Russia like those between blacks and whites or between Anglo-Saxons and Hispanics, as seen in U.S. The massive annual fiscal deficit of U.S.A. indicates that it is teetering around bankruptcy. It cannot compete with Japan, Germany or even China in the world markets.

Despite its depressed economy, Russia cannot be defeated by the U.S. in war. Most nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union are under the control of Russia. Besides it should be known that Ukraine, Belarus and the other republics of the former Soviet Union are not anti-Russia.

In a way China is also a superpower because of its huge arsenal of nuclear weapons, large territory, vast economy and huge population. China with the massive network of underground tunnels cannot easily be defeated by the U.S. China cannot be browbeaten as it definitely has the capability of striking back.

Even if U.S. could defeat China in all-out war, it would cost Americans many trillions of dollars. And no country from Europe, West Asia, Japan or elsewhere is going to share such huge cost with America. They don't have so much money to throw away. The hypothetical war with China will not be like the puny war with Iraq for which the U.S. got all the money — billions of dollars — from Arab countries. The U.S. could not afford to suffer even these comparatively small losses itself. Nobody in his senses is going to finance America's war against China or any other major country.

Even if there is victory for the U.S. in a war with any major country like China, it will completely shatter the American economy. The U.S. would become completely bankrupt and that could lead to the break-up of U.S. itself as it happened in the case of the Soviet Union which unnecessarily got involved in the Afghan war, and that would be really tragic. One of the most important causes of the break-up of the Soviet Union was its shattered economy due to the heavy cost of the war it fought in Afghanistan. Of course there were few other reasons too. If the U.S. breaks up after such a major or prolonged war due to severe economic losses, Russia would become the strongest military power. So let no American even contemplate any major or prolonged war. It will not do any good to his country. The days of superpower hegemony are numbered.

American attempts at browbeating will bring India and China together. India cannot wish for China's defeat. We assume China also would not wish for India's defeat in a war with the U.S. We should not give a chance to the U.S. to use India against China or vice versa. We must remember how George Bush used the U.S. ambassador to Iraq to trick Saddam Hussein to invade Kuwait, and how Bush used this self-created chance to launch a massive attack on Iraq. Indian President R. Venkataraman has done the right thing by using his recent visit to China to strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries.

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The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Iraq's war — 'a grand design to terminate the Arab bond'

By Sama Abu Hweij

AS WE were driving along the highway from Amman to Baghdad, our minds were occupied by the sad events that have befallen Iraq since the summer of 1990.

For my friends and I, this was the first visit to this beleaguered country. The trip was unforgettable.

Baghdad is a marvellous city but the destruction brought upon it by the war leaves a sad shadow hanging over the birthplace of the world's first and great civilisations. Yet in the new buildings springing all over the city one sees the determination to rebuild, defy and refuse defeat.

The Iraqis generosity towards their Palestinian-Jordanian visitors, despite the many hardships, was impressive. But even more so was the dignity with which they are coping with their suffering.

In Iraq, the war is not yet over. The economic embargo is one of

its ongoing and fierce manifestations. Surviving in Iraq has become a constant struggle. Inflation, soaring prices and shortages of basic commodities have had its heavy toll on many Iraqis. And while learning to live with the harshness of their present, the Iraqis are uncertain about their future. Nobody knows when the sanctions will be lifted and many are doubtful the embargo will end even if Iraq complied with all U.N. resolutions on the war.

Patience is running out. Twenty-six year old Mohammad, a veteran of the Iran-Iraq war who spent six years as a prisoner of war in Iran, would emigrate to any country outside the Middle East. "I love my country," he says, "but I cannot take the sorrow any more."

Feeling let down by the Arabs, the Iraqis have bitter sentiments for their unsupportive brothers. These feelings, however, are

almost matched by anxiety about the price the Arabs, as a nation, have paid in the conflict. What was lost during the war, they believe, is the Arabs' future and rights.

"You were born in Jerusalem? The Iraqi officer who checked passports asked. "Yes," I replied. "I am afraid you'll never go back there," he said.

"The Western behaviour towards Iraq was part of a grand design ultimately aimed at terminating the Arab bond," says a retired Arab diplomat who requested not to be named. He said the West wanted the Arab World to become "nothing more than a mass of a clashing mini-states among which Israel can exist and upon which it can impose its will."

As Arabs and Palestinians, we feel the anguish and share the frustration. The Arab World has never been more divided.

Iraq was left alone to grapple with forces beyond its military and political capabilities. And "not only were the Arabs disunited, they also joined the allied forces against it," the diplomat said. When a ceasefire was reached, he said, Iraq was left in the dark, struggling with, and enduring the sanctions.

But the campaign is not targeting Iraq alone. The West is seeking to weaken and control the whole of the Arab World: "The Americans are going to have a free hand in the region," said the diplomat. They will implement the resolutions that they want and weaken the country that they believe will disturb the balance of power that they would like to create, he said.

And in doing that, the United States will not be restrained by Arab public opinion. It did not stop them before the Gulf war. It will not stop them in the future.

قبر المقدس

Profiles of leaders attending G-7 summit

BONN (R) — The heads of the Group of Seven (G7) leading industrial nations meet in Munich next week for their annual economic conference.

Following are the profiles of the seven leaders and summit guests Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Jacques Delors, head of the European Community Commission.

Helmut Kohl, 62, has been German chancellor for 10 years and reached the peak of his popularity in October 1990, when he presided over German unification. His standing has slipped along with the popularity of his Christian Democrats in the past two years as Germans foot a mounting bill for unity.

George Bush, 68, became U.S. president in January 1989 after serving as vice president under Ronald Reagan. Mr. Bush's popularity soared in March 1991 after the U.S.-led Gulf war victory but has since slumped along with the U.S. economy. The Republican faces a tough reelection battle in November against

Democrat Bill Clinton and likely independent candidate Ross Perot.

Japan's Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who attended the 1988 G7 summit in Toronto as finance minister, is a spry 72-year-old. Mr. Miyazawa, who took office in November 1991, had a bleak first winter beset by scandals and an ineffectual image but is now poised to pilot his Liberal Democrat Party to victory in upper house elections later in July.

John Major, 49, was reelected British prime minister in April and is probably more secure than any other G7 leader. He chaired last year's London summit and has several aims for this one — to express confidence in achieving sustained, non-inflationary growth in the global economy, to continue help for the former Soviet Union and to ensure the needs of the Third World are not forgotten.

François Mitterrand, 75, the longest-serving of the G7 leaders, became France's first socialist

president 11 years ago but is now struggling to persuade voters he should stay in power. An ardent pro-European, he has staked his political future on a September referendum on the Maastricht treaty while facing mounting domestic problems, especially unemployment.

Brian Mulroney, 53, has been prime minister of Canada for eight years. He took his conservative party to two consecutive majority governments but his popularity has fallen sharply as the economy weakens and unemployment grows. A lack of agreement on a new constitutional accord with French-speaking Quebec has also undermined his standing.

Italy's Prime Minister Giuliano Amato, 54, makes his debut on the international stage after being nominated to lead Italy's 51st post-war government last month. A law professor and former treasury minister, Mr. Amato has a reputation as a clean and moderate politician. With a tiny parliamentary majority, he must

push through measures to cut a budget deficit — failure could leave Italy out of EC economic union later this decade.

Munich is also a first for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, 61, who assumed supreme power in Russia with the collapse of the Soviet Union and resignation of its President Mikhail Gorbachev in December. The communist-turned-market leader wants to reassure the West he is committed to market reforms and to smooth the way for credits. But he assures crowds at home he will not allow the West to dictate terms for help.

EC Commission President Jacques Delors will also attend the meeting in a tradition begun in 1977 by then President Roy Jenkins. Delors, 66, who was reappointed president for 1993-94 last week, earned widespread respect and the nickname "Mr. Europe" for setting the EC on the road to a single market but has since met with resistance as he pushes the community towards closer union.

Taiwan's locomotive is pulling the mainland along

By Gary Klintworth

TAIPEI — Taiwan may well be taking over the Chinese mainland using what Mao Zedong described as "sugar-coated bullets." Once thought to be inevitably part of Mao's new communist China, Taiwan has reversed roles to become a key force shaping the economic and political future of the mainland.

In the early '70s, many saw Taipei with few options other than to seek accommodation with Beijing. Although Taiwan's future is still not absolutely secure, its prospects have never looked better. The mainland, it seems, is coming to terms with the synergy of Taiwan and Hong Kong. A number of developments have rescued Taiwan from oblivion. Exploiting the increasing commercial and financial strength of the island, Taipei successfully employed a flexible, nonofficial form of trade diplomacy to win friends and influence people.

Since 1953, Taiwan's economic growth has averaged 9 per cent a year. The island has a population of only 20 million, a fraction of China's 1.2 billion. But Taiwan's GNP is now one-third the size of the mainland's. In terms of global trade, Taiwan is ranked 14th, while China is 15th. Reform in China helped ease tension across the Taiwan Strait. With the disappearance of the Soviet threat, China lost much of its strategic importance. The collapse of communism around the world left an opening for Taiwan.

Rich, capital advanced, Taiwan's credentials as an important economic power in Asia have been enhanced by political reforms and the process of

democratization that followed the ending of martial law in 1987.

Its role as a catalyst in the transformation of Chinese communism centers on several Taiwan-like provinces in southern China, notably Fujian and Guangdong. Despite Beijing's lip service to socialism and its refusal to renounce use of force against Taiwan, the reality is that the mainland is practicing capitalism and building bridges across the strait. Ties between Taiwan and southern China are being driven by market forces that are almost beyond the power of either Beijing or Taipei to control.

Nonetheless, the two sides hold regular talks on economic, cultural, legal, environmental, fisheries, customs, academic and trade matters. There are plans for cooperation in advanced technologies in such areas as super-computing, computers and nano-space. One million Taiwanese visited the mainland in 1991. Remittances from Taiwanese to relatives on the mainland are worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year. Direct air and sea links may soon be unblocked.

China is under demographic pressure to modernize. It needs Taiwan's capital, technology, management skills, global marketing know-how and its modernization experience. Taiwan, hit by an appreciating currency in recent years and loss of preferential trade access to the United States in 1989, needs access to the mainland's resources, cheap labour and market potential.

The southern part of China is a logical base for Taiwanese businessmen. It is Chinese, much closer to Taipei than Beijing, and very profit-

able. According to a survey in March, 85 per cent of Taiwanese investors on the mainland made profits within a year at a rate twice what they were making on Taiwan. The island's natural ethnic and linguistic connections to the mainland and the sophistication of its industrial base have prompted many multinationals to form joint ventures with Taiwanese corporations in China.

Taiwanese investment in southern China is accelerating and constitutes about 20 per cent of total overseas investment by Taiwan. And Beijing wants more capital and technology from Taiwan. It offers tax incentives and preferential treatment not offered to other investors. Most of the money has gone into small-scale, labour intensive projects in southern China where the Taiwanese have family connections.

Recently, the trend has been to branch out into other parts of China and invest in medium-technology, capital intensive operations such as petrochemicals, vehicle manufacturing, precision machine tools and computers. Where Taiwanese suppliers of shoes, textiles, umbrellas, wigs, car engines and computers relocate, suppliers of machinery, components and semi-finished materials must follow.

The mainland is Taiwan's fastest growing export market. Two-way trade was worth \$5.8 billion in 1991, up from \$1.5 billion in 1987. The trade balance is heavily in Taiwan's favour. China is Taiwan's fourth-largest export market after the United States, Hong Kong and Japan. Taipei is concerned about becoming

too dependent on the mainland economically. Beijing is worried that Taiwanese influence will undermine its political authority. Both fear they will become hostage to manipulation by the other. But both also depend on each other, far more perhaps than they are prepared to admit. When direct links open up, the process of integration between Taiwan and southern China will become irreversible.

This trend has focused attention on the concept of a Chinese Economic Community that combines the technical prowess, capital, natural and human resources, and management skills of Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao and the southern provinces of Guangdong and Fujian. They comprise the part of a greater China that was historically the most rebellious — and is currently the richest and most Westernized — area of an extended Chinese nation. This zone is one of the most important forces for economic, social and political change in the rest of China.

Economics Minister Vincent Siew of Taiwan recently forecast that eventual creation of a Chinese Economic Community could form "an industrial zone second to none." It already has a combined GNP of \$280 billion and the potential to become one of the world's largest trading blocs. Rather than China drawing in outlying parts into the mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong are the locomotives pulling Guangdong, Fujian and, ultimately, the rest of China into the mainstream of the Asia-Pacific economy — (International Herald Tribune).



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Libyan paper poses question to Fahd

(Continued from page 1)

Al Jamahiriya recently published unprecedented editorials urging Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to abandon his championship of Islam and Arab nationalism after Muslim allies failed to stand with him in a conflict with the West.

Airlinks with Libya have been cut since April 15 when U.N. sanctions were imposed on Tripoli for refusing to hand over two men wanted for trial in the West over airliner bombings.

Libya accused Saudi Arabia of preventing its citizens from performing the main pilgrimage which ended last month.

Al Jamahiriya accused Saudi authorities of barring thousands

of Iranians from the Hajj in past years for being Revolutionary Guards. A Libyan journalist was stopped from visiting holy shrines in Mecca and Medina because he once criticised Saudi Arabia's oil policy, the editorial said.

"We have no objection to Fahd being custodian of the two holy shrines besides being king...but we don't want the mingling between the two posts..."

If Saudi Arabia was unable to run the affairs to the holy shrines on non-political basis "let it stay out of the path of God and hand over the sacred shrines to a religious committee representing all Muslim countries and communities to run them religiously according to the Islamic tenant," the paper said.

Algeria says no dialogue with FIS

(Continued from page 1)

A clear picture of what happened Monday morning has yet to emerge. Witnesses at first said the assassin was shot and killed on the spot; later reports said he was arrested immediately.

The government has not formally said there was a conspiracy to kill Mr. Bouidiat, but Saturday's statement implied Boumaaraf did not act alone.

Earlier on Saturday, Interior Minister Belkheir said the assassin acted alone.

Algiers Radio said Sunday gunmen shot dead five policemen in Algeria at the weekend.

The police were in two patrol vehicles, attacked on Saturday night.

Unidentified attackers opened fire on the patrol, in the Boumerdes area, east of Algiers, with automatic weapons, the radio said, quoting security sources.

The collective presidency said a statement it would act firmly to maintain order.

"Invested with the heavy responsibility of maintaining order and continuity of the state, the RCE (presidency, will act with

firmness and determination whatever the circumstances, whatever the price," it said.

One day before Mr. Bouidiat's death, the cabinet paid tribute to slain security force members and the "sense of duty" shown each day by the forces.

The statement said the presidency was setting up a group to look urgently into improving conditions for members of the forces which had "known continued deterioration since the first years of independence."

House

(Continued from page 1)

Party finances will be subject to scrutiny by Ministry of Interior inspectors to ascertain the sources of funding. No individual contribution to a party's activities may exceed JD 5,000 per year.

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2 Declare bluntly	32 Look hard	46 Climb	54 Football play
3 Faction	37 Jewelry metal	48 Graven image	55 Leer
4 Paid notices	38 Tawdry	50 Artist's model	56 Exuberant
5 Evil creatures	39 Owl	51 Related	exclamation
6 Gr. town	41 Afr. capital	52 Nothing more	58 Watch pocket
7 — in (middle)	42 Young pigeon	53 Small rail	

Islamic Development Bank increases capital

JEDDAH (R) — Finance ministers from Muslim states agreed to almost double the Islamic Development Bank's (IDB) working capital to \$5.3 billion.

The ministers said in a statement Sunday the bank's subscribed capital would rise by 1.9 billion Islamic dinars to four billion dinars, the unit of account used by the IDB and equivalent to \$1.33.

On Saturday, the ministers admitted Azerbaijan as the IDB's 45th member — the first of the southern Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union to join.

The IDB signed an agreement giving Azerbaijan a \$420,000 grant for a road project.

The ministers readmitted Afghanistan, whose membership was suspended after the 1979 Soviet invasion.

The statement said members would pay up 30 per cent of the capital increase in 10 equal annual instalments and according to their current shareholding in the IDB. The remainder would be on call from member states.

Saudi Arabia is the biggest IDB shareholder, with a 26 per cent stake.

The ministers agreed to increase the IDB's authorised capital, the total resources on which it may theoretically call, by \$5.1 billion to \$8 billion.

The capital rise was ordered by an Islamic summit in Dakar last

December.

The IDB also signed an \$18 million loan agreement with Tunisia to help it buy a merchant ship and another for a \$7 million loan to Senegal for a university housing project.

Italy begins drive to cure economy by propping up lira

ROME (R) — The Bank of Italy pushed up its main lending rate Sunday to support the embattled lira, while Prime Minister Giuliano Amato's new government announced its first measures to tackle inflation and a huge budget deficit.

The central bank said in a statement that it was increasing its discount rate by a full percentage point to 13 per cent, with effect from Monday, to take pressure off the Italian currency in financial markets.

The Amato government said it was freezing public sector prices as a first move towards beating the ailing economy.

It added that it would finalise a full package of spending cuts and tax increases by the end of this week to slash 30 billion lire (\$26 billion) off the runaway budget deficit.

The deficit is currently projected to reach 160 trillion lire (\$139 billion) in 1992, while inflation remains stubbornly high at more than five per cent.

The Bank of Italy stepped in to support the lira after an attack on the currency on foreign exchange markets. The lira has fallen sharply against the mark amid continuing speculation that Italy might have to devalue due to its

financial problems.

The government, in a statement issued after a special Sunday morning cabinet meeting, reaffirmed its determination to protect the lira, saying the stability of the exchange rate was a key element in fighting inflation.

Financial analysts welcomed the rate rise, saying that it had become inevitable after devaluation fears drove the lira down near all-time lows of 760.25 to the Deutschmark Friday.

"It shows once again that defending the lira is the (bank's) top priority," Ernesto Paolillo, president of the Italian Forex Club, said.

"I hope that the international speculation will now understand once and for all that the lira will not be devalued," he said.

But analysts and dealers said markets were likely to remain nervous until the government had proved that it could take convincing action to cleanse the economy.

The government said details of moves to tackle the 1992 deficit would be contained in a decree law to go before parliament on Mr. Amato's return from this week's Group of Seven summit of leading industrialised nations in

Munich.

The government said it would also seek approval from parliament for four special laws giving it sweeping powers to reform the deficit-generating sectors of pensions, health, local government and public sector employment.

Financial markets grew increasingly nervous as Italy floundered in political crisis for nearly three months following inconclusive general elections in April.

Mr. Amato's administration has said the economy would be its top priority.

But it has a perilously slim majority in both houses of parliament and some political analysts predict that it will prove a short-lived "summer government."

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said recently that Italy's economic growth will pick up over the next 18 months but it will be insufficient to stop unemployment rising.

Italy's gross domestic product (GDP) should grow by about two per cent in 1993, faster than this year's 1.5 per cent rate, but unemployment will rise from 11.2 per cent of the workforce to 11.5 per cent next year, the think-tank of 24 rich industrial countries

forecast.

Stronger foreign demand should foster a mild rebound of economic activity this year, with the pace accelerating in 1993 as projected higher profits and a more vigorous expansion of international markets stimulate fixed investment, the Paris-based OECD said in its twice-yearly review.

Inflation should slow, allowing Italy to narrow the gap with Germany, but there is unlikely to be any corresponding reduction in the differential between the two countries' interest rates.

Italian rates will be prevented from falling in line with the slower inflation because of the burden of the public sector deficit, which is set to exceed substantially the government's target for a 128 trillion lire (\$107 billion) shortfall this year.

The outgoing government has said that without further budget cuts the deficit would hit a record 160 trillion (\$134 billion) in 1992.

The OECD said Italy's current account balance of payments deficit, which in 1991 hit 25.6 trillion lire (\$21.5 billion), or 1.8 per cent of GDP, its highest level for a decade, could widen further to two per cent of GDP in 1993.

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (June 29-July 3, 1992)

AMMAN — While the dollar's undertone continued last week, exchange rates remained confined to narrow ranges during the first half of the week. The U.S. unit dropped sharply, however, before the end of the week on the release of unexpectedly negative U.S. employment data and interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve. The dollar thus ended the week an average of 1.12 per cent lower against European currencies and 0.7 per cent lower against the yen.

The dollar slipped significantly against the major European currencies Monday on the release of May's U.S. Housing Start revealing a decline of 5.6 per cent. Comments by former British premier, Mrs. Thatcher, that the Maastricht Treaty "has gone too far," buoyed the mark, thus reflecting adversely on the dollar. The U.S. currency ended at what proved to be its highest levels of the week against sterling at 1.9034 dollars to the pound.

The dollar fluctuated within narrow ranges Tuesday as traders awaited the release of June's employment report Thursday. Rounds of short covering in late Wednesday trading took the dollar marginally higher against the mark. Earlier that day, the dollar was hurt by the release of the purchasing managers' index revealing a decline of 3.5 per cent in June to 52.8 per cent, against expectations of 55.9 per cent. The dollar thus closed at its highest per cent, levels of the week against the mark at 1.5237 marks.

Thursday witnessed a dollar relapse, closing at its lowest levels of the week at 1.5075 marks, 1.9235 dollars to the pound sterling and 124.40 yen. The drop materialized on the back of a weak employment report for June and an interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve.

The dollar crept cautiously Friday, as traders sought to take profits and square their positions ahead of the weekend, grasping the opportunity of the thinness of the market due to a holiday shortened trading session in the U.S.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	26/6/92	3/7/92	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.8945	1.9085	0.74%
Deutsche Mark	1.5353	1.5185	1.10%
Swiss Franc	1.3805	1.3580	1.66%
French Franc	5.1605	5.1105	0.98%
Japanese Yen	125.67	124.78	0.71%

1 US Per 100

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	1-Month (%)	3-Month (%)	6-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	3.75	4.25	3.50	3.87
Sterling Pound	9.95	9.85	9.87	9.75
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.62	9.56	9.50
Swiss Franc	9.00	8.56	8.87	8.68
French Franc	9.93	9.90	9.96	9.88
Japanese Yen	4.68	4.31	4.43	4.12

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 A.D. dollar, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.670	.672
Sterling Pound	1.2774	1.2838
Deutsche Mark	.4408	.4430
Swiss Franc	.4929	.4954

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JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/NEW	22,220	1,110	1,100
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JORDAN RABY	7,431	2,550	2,540
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIES	130,976	6,050	6,050
ARAB FERTILISER INDUSTRIES	73,474	10,070	10,060
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ARAB CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	15,610	32,000	31,750
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INTERNATIONAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	46,744	2,490	2,480
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JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	2,710	4,750	4,740
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	6,360	0,750	0,800
JORDAN PAPER & CARD BOARD FACTORIES	5,150	5,350	5,350
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NATIONAL THERMOPLASTICS	935	0,630	0,620
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	3,435	4,350	4,300
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	26,928	13,480	13,450
ARAB INDUSTRIES	3,771	4,000	3,970
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Kenya puts up state assets in 207 companies for sale

NAIROBI (R) — The Kenyan government, denied Western aid, has put up for sale its stake in 207 firms everything from the state airline to a quaint mountain fishing inn.

The finance ministry published a list of all the companies it is putting under the hammer in one of the biggest privatisations Africa has seen since the West and aid donors began pushing in earnest for major reform two years ago.

"All the companies listed will have to go. We are serious about carrying through the privatisation process," George Minnie, principal secretary responsible for the sell-off told Reuters.

Initial Western reaction was satisfaction mixed with concern about Kenya's turbulent economic and political climate.

"It's something we've been wanting to see for ages but these are troubled times for Kenya," said a Western envoy.

Publication of the list was seen as a further attempt by the government to woo back aid and put the economy, which is in the worst shape for 10 years, back on even keel.

Western states suspended aid worth some \$600 million a year to Kenya last year to pressure the government into overhauling its inefficient, loss-making state enterprises and end decades of one-party rule.

President Daniel Arap Moi, in power since 1978, bowed to the pressure last year and agreed to hold free elections before April 1992, ushering in an era of free but heated debate in which personal attacks rather than policies have dominated.

The country has also suffered its worst tribal violence since independence — mysterious clashes between President Moi's minority Kalenjin tribe and the majority Kikuyu — as well as drought, a flood of refugees from

war in Somalia, lawlessness and a killer drought.

The sale immediately signalled over government shares in 45 companies including Kenya Airways, a cement works and state firms involved in everything from cashew nut processing to wine imports and the General Motors vehicle assembly plant.

A further sell-off will include banks, hotels and the quaint Isak Walton Inn, a remote hillside haunt named after the 17th century British fisherman-philosopher.

Tea factories processing Kenya's third most important foreign exchange earner after tourism and coffee exports will also be sold — they are regarded by Western businessmen as a success story in a chapter of otherwise costly state involvement.

The government will retain control of only 33 so-called "strategic" corporations.

India central bank orders audit of 4 foreign banks

NEW DELHI (R) — India's central bank says it has appointed special auditors to investigate the treasury operations of four foreign banks.

The Reserve Bank of India, in a statement reported by domestic news agencies and published in Indian newspapers Sunday, said auditors would look into Bombay branch operations of Citibank N.A., Bank of America N.T. S.A., ANZ Grindlays PLC and the Standard Chartered Bank.

The statement said the auditors have been asked to submit a report within a month. It said the central bank scrutinised the treasury transactions of the four banks last month, but gave no details.

The central bank issued a report on June 2, about a continuing investigation into India's worst financial scandal.

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More aid arrives in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — U.N. troops took advantage of a lull in fighting as three more flights arrived Sunday with relief supplies for Bosnia's besieged residents.

The U.N. commander for Yugoslavia, Gen. Satish Nambiar, also arrived to try to shore up the shaky truce.

Canadian, British and Norwegian planes all touched down before noon and six more planes were scheduled to arrive during the day, U.N. officials said. Twelve relief flights carrying food and medicine arrived Saturday.

"Planes drop out of the air here unannounced and have been doing so all week," said U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard in Sarajevo. "But we're always grateful for whatever comes in."

Gen. Nambiar was scheduled for separate talks with the Bosnian presidency and Serbian leaders.



A woman at a Muslim cemetery in Sarajevo prays at the grave of a relative killed in recent fighting

Both sides were to place their guns under U.N. supervision as part of a truce. But U.N. officials said an outbreak of heavy fighting early Saturday made it plain that neither side had fully complied.

According to Bosnian government officials, 7,561 people have been killed since fighting broke out after Bosnia's majority Muslims and Croats voted for independence from Yugoslavia on Feb. 29. Serb-led forces, backed by the federal army, have seized about two-thirds of Bosnia.

Mr. Eckhard said shelling and gun battles subsided early Sunday around the airport, which came under U.N. control on June 29. U.N. officials have said an increase in fighting could jeopardize relief efforts to the city, virtually cut off for the past three months.

On Saturday, the second full day of relief operations, U.N. peacekeepers braved shelling and gunfire to unload and deliver 12

plane loads of rice, baby food and medicine, said Mr. Eckhard.

Canadian Armoured carriers ringed the runways. The supplies were ferried into Sarajevo under armoured escort. At one shelter, relief workers dodged sniper fire as they finished distributed rations.

The bombardment came from Serb positions in the surrounding hills and the city's Jewish cemetery, Bosnian officials said.

But U.N. officials say both sides are waging attacks. "We haven't seen enough respect for the ceasefire on both sides," said Mr. Eckhard.

The Bosnians Saturday put the overnight casualty count at five dead and 17 injured, and U.N. officials said two Canadians peacekeepers at the airport were grazed by snipers' bullets Friday.

Azeris seize Karabakh town in new fighting

MOSCOW (R) — Azeri forces have taken control of the key northern town of Mardakert in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, news agencies said Sunday.

Interfax News Agency said most citizens of the town had been evacuated. But, quoting Armenian sources, it said: "Dozens of people have been killed, hundreds are missing."

Azerbaijan's Turan News Agency said Azeri troops had destroyed Armenian positions in the town and in surrounding villages. It had no information on casualties.

About 2,000 people have died in four years of fighting between Azeris and Armenians over Nagorno-Karabakh, located within Azerbaijan but populated largely by Armenians.

The Pro-Armenia news agency said Mardakert and several nearby villages had been seized late

Saturday evening.

The fate of thousands of refugees in the area was unknown, the agency said.

Pro-Armenia said Mardakert had about 25,000 inhabitants before the latest violence. But many had already fled the town.

The Karabakh conflict is one of the most bitter and protracted of the conflicts plaguing the Commonwealth of Independent States, which replaced the Soviet Union late last year.

The latest round of the fighting began in May, when Karabakh Armenians swept Azeris from the territory and punched a narrow land corridor through Azerbaijan to link the mountainous enclave with Armenia itself.

The following month, Azeri forces regrouped and counterattacked along the north and east of Karabakh, sending thousands of Armenian refugees fleeing from war zones.

Operation Rescue gears up for protests in U.S.

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana (R) — Militant demonstrators from the Operation Rescue anti-abortion group led 2,500 people in a Fourth of July rally here Saturday to "get people's hearts ready" for at least a week of protests in Baton Rouge and other Louisiana cities.

Beneath a banner reading "justice for all, born and unborn," abortion opponents from across the United States gathered in the Louisiana state capital on the Independence Day holiday and urged followers to join street demonstrations outside the city's only abortion clinic beginning Tuesday.

Abortion, legalised by a 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision, is one of the most divisive issues in the United States and may affect the Nov. 3 presidential election.

In Baton Rouge, abortion rights activists have trained 2,000 volunteers in non-violent techniques to escort women seeking clinic services through anti-abortion protesters.

Hit squads, called St. John the Baptist Groups, plan to picket the homes of, and businesses patronised by, doctors who perform abortions and their clinic

staffs, Operation Rescue spokesman Bob Jewitt told Reuters Saturday.

Operation Rescue demonstrations in Wichita, Kansas, cost that city hundreds of thousands of dollars last summer and federal marshals had to be called in to restore order.

Later demonstrations in Buffalo, New York, fizzled after two weeks as abortion rights activists consistently outnumbered anti-abortion protesters.

Dismayed Baton Rouge officials have publicly lamented the anticipated cost to taxpayers of police protection for the clinic and arrests expected to overwhelm the jail and courts.

Governor Edwin Edwards has put state police and the National Guard on stand-by in case local law enforcement officials need help during the week-long protest.

Louisiana already has a tough anti-abortion law banning all abortions except to save the mother's life or in limited instances of rape and incest. The law was ruled unconstitutional by a federal court and has not been enforced pending a decision by the appeals court.

French farmers block rail line in fresh protests

PARIS (R) — Protesting farmers have added to French transport chaos by blocking lines in the southeast, stranding thousands of people trying to travel between Lyon and the Mediterranean coast.

The farmers' protest Saturday night over European Community agricultural reforms compounded problems for travellers caused by a seven-day-old truck driver's blockade on the roads.

The farmers' action effectively cut rail links between Paris and the south east coast.

Officials at the state rail company SNCF predicted lengthy delays even when the line was completely cleared and advised people Sunday to delay travel plans in south eastern France.

Thousands of people were stranded at railway stations overnight.

Truckers maintained more than 100 road blocks around the country in a protest over controversial new driving regulations which have caused traffic chaos at the start of the summer holiday season.

Prime Minister Pierre Berégovoy, facing his most serious challenge since he was appointed by President François Mitterrand three months ago, insisted that the government would not give way on the driving licence system.

"There are truck drivers who think that blocking roads will make the government give way."

11 dead after weekend violence in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Police found five people shot through the head in a township street near Johannesburg Sunday, taking the toll in South African factional violence to at least 11 since Friday evening.

Police spokeswoman Henriette Bester said four men and a woman were found sprawled in a street in Vosloorus at about 7 a.m. (0500 GMT).

Each had been shot once in the head and the bodies had been stripped of all identification. Police were investigating the possibility that they had been executed by political rivals and

dumped there, she said.

About 6,000 people have died in township clashes mainly between followers of the African National Congress (ANC) and the rival Inkatha Freedom Party since February 1990.

The worst single incident was the massacre two weeks ago of 43 people in Boipatong, near Johannesburg.

The ANC blames the government for the violence, but Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer insisted Saturday the ANC and Inkatha were responsible.

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Finland, like CSCE, has been changed by communism's fall.

The country is mired in a recession deepened by the end of a lucrative barter trade deal with the former Soviet Union.

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"There is absolutely no doubt that the collapse of Bolshevism,

Crimean Tatars find it is hard to go home

GASPORA, Ukraine (AP) — Ahmad Asanov was eight months old when Josef Stalin branded him and his family "enemies of the people" and deported them from Crimea to Central Asia.

After waiting almost half a century, Mr. Asanov was allowed to return two years ago. He now lives on a dusty coastal plot near Yalta, his birthplace, in a shantytown that 350 Crimean Tatars are trying to turn into a village.

"What has this child seen in her 10 years except for dirt, construction and insults at school?" asked Mr. Asanov, an unemployed mechanic, looking at his dark-haired daughter, Sivilia. She stood near a pile of broken bricks in front of their half-built shack.

Crimean Tatars were accused of collaborating with the Nazis in World War II and were exiled to Central Asia in 1944. In July 1990, the last Soviet government, led by Mikhail Gorbachev, let them return.

Now, the estimated 150,000 Tatars who took advantage of the opportunity are caught in a territorial tug-of-war between Russia and Ukraine, the two most powerful nations to emerge from the former Soviet Union.

Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred the Black Sea peninsula from Russia to Ukraine in 1954, the 300th anniversary of the Russian-Ukrainian Alliance, but Russia's parliament recently declared the transfer illegal.

Crimea's parliament declared independence, complicating the matter, then withdrew the declaration May 20 in an attempt to reduce tension. The Tatars have asked that their "majlis," or legislature, be given legal jurisdiction over the area.

In addition to the territorial argument, neither the Russian nor the Ukrainian government has the money to help returning Tatars rebuild their lives.

The Tatars are a Turkic-speaking people who joined with other Mongol tribes to invade Eastern Europe in the 1200s, and number about 6 million worldwide. Most of them live in the former Soviet Union, China, Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria.

As Russia and Ukraine vie for control of the Crimea, Tatar territorial claims are brushed aside. Most Tatars who have returned are impoverished and politically disenfranchised.

Mr. Asanov and 86 other families live in the collection of wooden shacks on the edge of the Black Sea cove. Few shacks have plumbing or electricity and only four of the adults are employed.

The Tatar families left Central Asia for Simferopol, the Crimean capital, two years ago expecting to be given apartments and jobs.

After camping in tents outside municipal offices for six months, they seized a desolate stretch of land beside the main coastal highway.

Three busloads of local residents showed up soon after they started building their shacks, some of the Tatars told a visitor.

"They came with sticks and the police, and started tearing down our homes," said Zekiye Medzhidova, an unemployed store clerk with three small children. "They hit us with sticks and billy clubs, but later they came to apologise."

Klara Karpova, a retired factory worker, and her husband sold their house in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, to return to Crimea. They live with their daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren in a one-room shack.

None of the adults has found work, but they do not regret the decision to move. "No matter how badly we live or how much we suffer, we can't forsake our motherland," Mrs. Karpova said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

India riot toll rises to 21

AHMEDABAD, India (R) — Mobs killed two people in religious riots in this west Indian city overnight, bringing the death toll in four days of Hindu-Muslim clashes to 21, police said Sunday. Police reported scattered incidents of arson and looting Sunday in Ahmedabad, the state capital of Gujarat. Rioters killed two people during Saturday night, one of whom was a senior official in the Indian Oil Corporation. Earlier Saturday two people were burned alive when mobs set fire to an automated rickshaw in the city, police said. Ahmedabad's old quarter is under indefinite curfew, with the army on alert. The riots were sparked by reports that a procession for the Hindu god Jagannath was stoned Thursday as it passed through a Muslim neighbourhood. Eight people were killed and 80 injured in stabbing incidents or when police fired on rioters Thursday.

Burmese troops kill Muslim MP

MAE SOT, Thailand (R) — Soldiers in Burma beat a Muslim member of parliament to death after he refused to try to persuade fellow Muslims to return to their homes, sources said Sunday. The Burmese Muslim sources arrived at this Thai border town from the township of Maungdaw in Burma's Muslim-majority western state of Arakan. They told Reuters the troops ordered Mohammad Ilyas, a parliamentarian representing Maungdaw, and four other MPs to cross the border into Bangladesh and try to persuade Burmese Muslim refugees to return home. More than 280,000 Burmese Muslims have fled from Arakan to Bangladesh since early last year, alleging army persecution. The sources said the soldiers arrested and beat the MPs when they refused to undertake the mission. Mr. Ilyas, 60, was beaten to death at a military barracks on June 19. They said the four others, including one named Fazal Ahmad, were seriously injured and were being detained in an army prison.

Russian general: Moldova buying time

MOSCOW (R) — A Russian army commander accused Moldova Saturday of "genocide" in its breakaway Dnestr region and said the former Soviet republic was using negotiations to buy time to build up its armed forces. Major-General Alexander Lebed, head of the Russian 14th Army in Moldova, said the breakaway region was suffering not ethnic conflict but "genocide... against our own people." Hundreds of people have been killed in months of fighting between the separatists, mainly Slavs and former Communists, and government forces. The rebels seek independence because they fear eventual Moldovan unification with Romania. Most of Moldova — but not the eastern Dnestr region — was part of Romania until the Soviet Union annexed it in 1940. Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and Russian President Boris Yeltsin agreed Friday to seek a ceasefire in the region, send in a buffer force of neutral troops and withdraw the rival forces from the battle zone.

Alerts declared at U.S. reactors

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP) — Thousands of gallons of radioactive reactors coolant spilled onto the containment building floor of a Nebraska nuclear power plant, while a transformer exploded near a Pennsylvania reactor. Both plants shut down and alerts were declared but later lifted. Utility officials said there was no danger to the public or workers and no release of radiation from either incident. In Nebraska, an alert — the second lowest of four federal nuclear emergency classifications — was declared at the Omaha Public Power District's Fort Calhoun Station at 1:55 p.m. Friday, utility spokesman Gary Williams said.

State of calamity declared for Manila

MANILA (AP) — President Fidel Ramos declared coastal areas of Manila and four nearby provinces under a state of calamity Saturday because of a "red tide" infestation in Manila Bay, his spokeswoman announced. Presidential spokeswoman Annabelle Tesson-Ayala said the state of calamity covers the coastal areas of Manila, Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan and Cavite. The declaration allows government agencies to conduct relief and rehabilitation work in the affected areas, Mrs. Ayala said. The "red tide" received its name because of a red coloration of water caused by microscopic organisms called Dinoflagellates. Of the more than 2,000 types of Dinoflagellates, 30 produce a toxin which can harm humans.

Russian democrats to defend reforms

MOSCOW (R) — Some 40 parties from Russia's fragmented democratic camp have pledged to work together to safeguard the government's reforms in the face of a feared country-attack by Communists and conservatives. "However hard things are, we will not allow any revisionist programmes to be realised," said Russian State Secretary Gennady Burbulis, addressing the forum on behalf of President Boris Yeltsin. "Deeply mistaken are those people who are baring their teeth in the hope of revenge," he said in reference to the hardliners. Senior politicians have sounded repeated warnings that former Communists or even fascists could attempt a coup against Mr. Yeltsin along the lines of the hardline putsch last year whose failure led to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Troops to keep the peace S. Ossetia

MOSCOW (R) — Negotiators have agreed to deploy peacekeeping forces within 10 days in a breakaway region of Georgia where hundreds of people have been killed in ethnic fighting, ITAR-TASS News Agency said. The news marked a potential breakthrough in the conflict over south Ossetia, which wants to break away from Georgia and unite with neighbouring North Ossetia, part of Russia. Ossetian separatists and Georgian nationalist forces have been fighting in the Transcaucasian region since late 1990 — one of the deadliest ethnic conflicts in the former Soviet Union. ITAR-TASS said negotiators from Russia, Georgia, and North and South Ossetia decided to form joint peacekeeping forces and set up an observers group and a mixed control commission with "absolute power to adopt decisions in the conflict zone."

30 feared drowned in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — At least 30 people are feared drowned after two boats sank in a river near Bangladesh's coastal town of Bhola, police said Sunday. They said the boats went down in the Bhola River Saturday after being caught in a whirlpool. Nearly 20 passengers were rescued by other vessels but at least 30 were missing and feared dead.

Astronauts study dust, oil

SPACE CENTRE, Houston (AP) — Colombia's astronauts rocked glistening beads of oil and kicked up miniature dust storms Sunday during the 10th day of a shuttle flight that is soon to become the longest yet. Astronaut Carl Meade used blasts of compressed air to scatter quartz particles the size of sand grains inside small chambers, where they hung in midair. Researchers want to learn how fine particles cluster so they can ascertain how the atmosphere purges itself of dust after volcanic eruptions, dust storms, meteorite and comet strikes and, potentially, nuclear explosions. Meanwhile, physicist Eugene Trinh used sound waves to suspend and oscillate a wobbling drop of silicone oil. The experiment may contribute to research in cell transplantation, a proposed method of treating human hormone deficiencies using living cells sheathed in a protective membrane.

COLUMN

Carreras launches Red Square Arts Festival

MOSCOW (R) — The voice of Spanish tenor Jose Carreras rang out across Red Square at the start of a lavish week-long arts festival beneath the Kremlin walls. Carreras delighted thousands of spectators with a two-hour recital of operatic arias from a stage in front of onion-domed St Basil's Cathedral, just a stone's throw from the mausoleum of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin. The beaming tenor returned for encore after encore on the opening night of "Red Square invites," a pageant of the performing arts whose profits will help fund Russian culture at a time of economic crisis. "This festival is a symbol of Russia's union with world culture," Carreras told ITAR-TASS News Agency. "Taking part in it has huge significance for me as a professional. More than that, I consider it my duty. Russia is living through hard times. May my art offer Russians moral support at a difficult period for them." The performance, followed by a fireworks display, was broadcast to many countries, but Russian Television sounded a note of disappointment that foreigners far outnumbered Russians in the audience.

Domingo to star in Tosca in original settings

ROME (AP) — Tenor Placido Domingo will star in an unusual production of Puccini's Tosca to be filmed in the three locations in Rome in which the opera's scenes are set, officials said Thursday. Under the direction of Giuseppe Patroni Griffi, Domingo, American soprano Catherine Malfitano and Italian baritone Ruggero Raimondi are scheduled to perform the opera at the three locations and the times specified in the work. Act 1 will be performed at midday on July 11 at the Church of Sant'Andrea Della Valle; Act 2 will take place that evening at the Farnese Palace; and Act 3 will take place the following dawn at Castel Sant'Angelo, said producer Andrea Andermann. The opera will be shown live in Italy and presented via satellite to 95 countries, he told a news conference.

Pet ferret lands red-faced Briton in court

LONDON (R) — A court cleared a Briton of indecent exposure after magistrates heard he dropped his trousers when his pet ferret gnasher ran up his leg. Tim Godwin, from Redditch in central England, was arrested after a woman neighbour spotted him with his track suit trousers around his knees in his garden and called police. Mr. Godwin's lawyer's Richard Bell told the hearing: "What she saw was my client dropping his trousers to remove a ferret. He is very embarrassed." Mr. Godwin has stopped keeping the sharp-toothed polecats. "If he keeps any again, I have told him to keep his trousers tucked into his socks," his mother Peggy told newspapers.

Japan zoos show blue movies to shy gorillas

TOKYO (R) — Japanese zoos, stuck with pairs of gorillas who are disinclined to mate, have hit on the idea of showing them blue movies to get them in the mood. Hamamatsu City Zoo in Shizuoka Prefecture, southwest of Tokyo, shows its gorillas videos of other gorillas mating and giving birth, the daily Yomiuri Shimbun said Tuesday. Tobe Zoo in southern Japan's Ehime Prefecture also plans to use the video method, an idea taken from the United States, on its own gorillas when they are old enough to have a family. "We show them (ordinary) videos and television now, especially ones with a lot of action because that's what they like best," zoo employee Yasunori Miyachi told Reuters. "The problem is, it's just all fun for them, they can't sit still and watch the shows seriously." Getting gorillas to breed in captivity is difficult, animal experts said. The stress of people around them and cramped living quarters does not help, nor does the fact they are often given mates they find unattractive. Mr. Miyachi said the zoo had a fall-back strategy if the videos failed to turn the gorillas on. "The gorillas watch the chimpanzees next door and imitate what they do. If the chimpanzees make babies, then maybe the gorillas will do the same," he said.

CSCE returns to Helsinki birthplace for post-cold war summit

HELSINKI (R) — Leaders of 52 states in the northern half of the globe from Vancouver to Vladivostok meet here to create a broad new authority over European security.

Thousands of politicians and journalists will converge on Helsinki Thursday and Friday for an East-West forum, a major event in a media-era of summitry.

Finlandia Hall, a modern architectural showpiece when the European security conference was born there in 1975, is showing its age, its marble facing warped and paint peeling in spots.

But the political body, formally known as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), returns to Helsinki for a grand ceremony marking its development into what some see as the main guarantee of European stability.

And Helsinki is ready with pride.

"This is the biggest summit in Europe ever," said Markku Reimaa, the Finnish Foreign Ministry's top press and cultural official. Mr. Reimaa has been involved in CSCE from its start as a forum for East-West detente.

"We have lived this process, more than anyone else," said Olli Kivinen, Foreign editor of Finland's largest daily newspaper, Helsingin Sanomat.

The meeting is the latest in a summit season, including the Rio Environmental Conference, the European Community's June get-together in Lisbon and the group of seven industrial nations talks in Munich this week.

Eight thousand to 10,000 delegates, journalists and other participants will be involved, Press Director Christer Haglund said.

The crowd has easily outgrown Finlandia Hall, designed by national hero Alvar Aalto and a landmark of diplomacy since the Helsinki Final Act was signed

there at the first CSCE summit. The leaders instead will meet in the cavernous Helsinki Fair Centre, the only place in town with space to accommodate everyone.

The summit centre has been fitted with its own bank, post office and fast-food outlet, about 1,200 telephones, and towers of television screens to broadcast the summit in six languages.

Although this year's summit is larger, the 1975 meeting was arguably more momentous, said Reimaa, a delegate to that event who also will be at this week's summit.

"I think that was a much more risky operation. That was the first summit post-World War II... now summits are taking place nearly every week," Mr. Reimaa said.

Then the superpowers, glaring over an iron curtain across Europe, set out to close the books on World War II and find a way for an ideologically-divided continent to live at peace.

Over the years CSCE has sponsored arms treaties such as the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) pact and outlined human rights principles members were expected to live by.

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سحر امجد